TUESDAY
January 17, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

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Law Minister's letter to SC sparks row

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A mandatory address under Article 176

It is about the elected government's policies

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MOVING AHEAD

Nadal advances with a hard-fought win

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Traffic signal lights to get emergency vehicle sensors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To make way for ambulances, as many as 163 traffic signal lights across the city will soon be upgraded with emergency vehicle sensors.

This, according to M.A Saleem, Special commissioner of Police (Traffic), is a step towards saving lives during the golden hour. "This is part of the 'B track' project where the department has got an approval and has roped in Karnataka Road Development Corporation (KRDCL) to procure the required equipment to upgrade the signal lights. The project is expected to be completed within four months and all ambulances operating in the city have been installed with equipment to respond to the signal lights to turn it green," he said.

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Exports drop by 12.2% in a year on slow demand

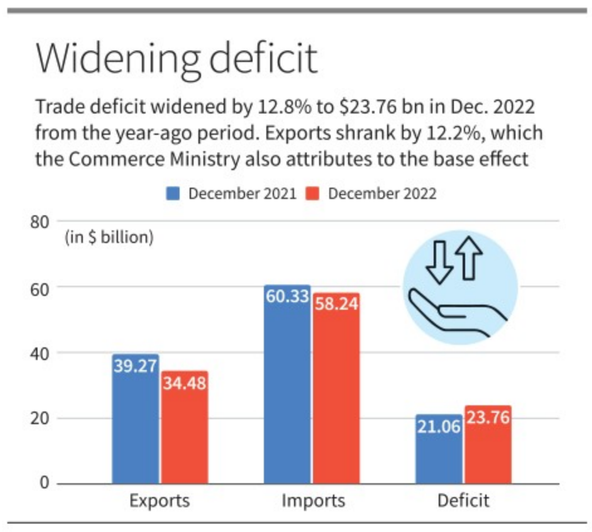
The country exported goods worth $34.48 billion in December 2022, a rise from November's $32-billion figure; imports contracted 3.5% to $58.2 billion from $60.33 billion a year ago

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India exported goods worth $34.48 billion in December 2022, constituting a 7.75% rise from November's $32 billion figure but a steep 12.2% dip from a year ago, amid slowing global demand. Imports also contracted 3.5% to $58.2 billion from $60.33 billion a year ago.

This is the second time in three months that the value of outbound merchandise shipments has tanked year-on-year. In October 2022, goods exports had dropped 16.7% to slip below the $30 billion mark for the first time in 21 months, and risen a mere 0.6% in November.

Consequently, the country's merchandise trade deficit eased slightly from just under $24 billion in November to $23.76 billion in December, remaining under the $25 billion mark for the second month in a row after five months of $25 billion-plus deficits, including the record $30 billion deficit in July 2022.



Stressing that the 'high base effect' from December 2021 was at work too, the Commerce and Industry Ministry pointed out that merchandise exports stood at $39.27 billion that month, marking the second highest monthly merchandise and services exports during 2021-22.

"Global growth forecasts indicate downturn in global economic activity and trade. As per Global Composite Purchasing Managers' Index report (January 2023), new export orders have been contracting for the tenth successive month in December," the Ministry said in a statement.

"The sequential improvement in exports due to pre-holiday shipments was not enough to stave off a year-on-year contraction in December," Aditi Nayar at ICRA said. Softer prices of some commodities have helped rein in imports and stabilised the trade deficit, she noted.

CONTINUED ON
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Nepal plane crash: Black box recovered from accident site

Recovery effort: Rescuers pull out the body of a victim who was killed in a Yeti Airlines plane crash in Pokhara. AFP

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

All 72 people, including five Indian passengers, on board the Yeti Airlines aircraft that crashed on Sunday are believed to be dead as rescue workers made little progress in finding any survivors. They recovered one more body and the black box from the accident site, officials said on Monday.

Officials said 41 of the 69 bodies recovered so far had been identified. Nepal observed a national day of mourning on Monday.

Both the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder have been recovered as rescue teams rappelled down a 300-metre gorge to continue their efforts. The boxes could offer vital clues about Sunday's crash – Nepal's deadliest aviation accident in over 30 years.

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PILOT COUPLE
» PAGE 13

NEARBY

Contractors hurl bribery charge against BJP MLA

BENGALURU
The Karnataka State Contractors' Association on Monday accused senior BJP legislator G.H. Thippareddy of demanding and receiving bribe for works undertaken in Chitradurga constituency.

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BBMP to build grade separator at Old Yelahanka

BENGALURU
To end the perennial traffic snarls on Old Yelahanka Road, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) planned to construct a grade separator at Kempegowda Circle, Old Yelahanka. » PAGE 2

Bull run

Running wild: Youth trying to subdue a bull at the Jallikattu, a bull-taming sport, at Periya Suriyur in Tiruchi of Tamil Nadu on Monday. Nearly 623 bulls were released one after another in the nine-hour event. One spectator was gored to death and 62 were injured. M. MOORTHY

Cong. promises ₹2,000 a month for every woman head of households

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress on Monday promised ₹2,000 a month to every woman head of households if the party was voted to power in the Assembly elections in the State scheduled for April-May.

The announcement was made at a women's convention inaugurated by AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. She said ₹24,000 a year would directly be credited to their bank accounts under "Gruha Lakshmi Yojana," an "unconditional universal basic income".

Last week, the Congress had promised 200 units of free electricity per month to each household in the State under the "Gruha Jyoti scheme". "Gruha Lakshmi Yojana is the party's attempt to share the burden of the exorbitant LPG prices and the costly daily expenses that a woman has to bear," it said.

Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi, D.K. Shivakumar, and Siddaramaiah at 'Na Nayaki' convention at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"The Congress wants every woman of the State to be empowered and capable of standing on her own feet and also taking care of her children. The party wants to provide financial independence to each woman of Karnataka," it said.

More than 1.5 crore women would benefit from the scheme.

Ms. Vadra said a separate manifesto for women would be released in the State and on the alleged rampant corruption in the BJP-ruled State.

"When we first made a women's manifesto in Uttar Pradesh, many people laughed at us. While nothing came out of it in terms of votes, we managed to make every political party notice women and respond to their needs. Today, even the BJP has been forced to put advertisements in the newspapers showing what they all do for women," she said

Appealing to women to evaluate how their lives had been under the BJP government, she raised corruption as an issue.

CONTINUED ON
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Wholesale price-based inflation at a 22-month low in December

4.95 In percentage, the wholesale price-based inflation in December 2022, decelerating to a 22-month low, mainly due to a fall in prices of food articles, such as vegetables, on easing supply side pressures and a higher base of last year. This is the seventh straight month of declining Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation. PTI

SIP contributions to mutual funds unfazed by market votality

31 In percentage, the increase in contributions to mutual fund schemes through systematic investment plans (SIP) in 2022, remaining unfazed by the market volatility last year. The inflow growth was at ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2022, due to higher retail participation compared to an inflow of ₹1.14 lakh crore in 2021, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed. PTI

The richest 1% owns 40% of the country's wealth: Oxfam

40 The percentage of India's total wealth owned by the richest 1% of the country, while the bottom half of the population together share just 3% of the wealth, a new study by Oxfam International revealed. While releasing the report, the organisation said that taxing India's 10-richest at 5% could fetch funds to bring all children back to school. PTI

COVID-19's XBB.1.5 variant spread across 11 States and UTs

26 The number of cases of COVID-19's XBB.1.5 variant in India, according to data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). The cases from the variant have spread across 11 States and Union territories, including Delhi, Maharashtra and West Bengal. The XBB.1.5 strain is a relative of the Omicron XBB variant. PTI

Death toll in Russian missile strike on an apartment building

35 The death toll from the weekend Russian missile strike on an apartment building in Dnipro, Ukraine, an official informed. At least 75 people were wounded and 35 were missing after Saturday's strike. The death toll made it the deadliest attack since the September 30 strike in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Delhi CM-LG stalemate continues

What is the recent flashpoint between Delhi Chief Minster Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena? What happened during the mayoral elections? Has communication between the two parties completely broken down? What are the other events which have promoted discord between the CM and the LG?

EXPLAINER

Jaideep Deo Bhanj

The story so far:

The recent flashpoint between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena was triggered ahead of the January 6 election of the Mayor and deputy Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). AAP has accused the LG of issuing orders on "practically everything" and bypassing the elected government.

What happened?

The LG appointed Satya Sharma, a BJP councillor, to preside over the mayoral polls issuing a gazette notification for the same. The AAP alleged that the LG had bypassed the tradition of nominating or appointing the senior-most councillor as the presiding officer and has also bypassed the elected government's recommendation. The LG also nominated 10 aldermen to the MCD who were persons who needed to have "special knowledge or experience in municipal administration". The AAP said that the aldermen had political links to the BJP and accused the LG of giving them voting rights in the mayoral polls, which is prohibited according to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. The first meeting of the newly-elected House of the MCD ended with councillors of the AAP and BJP coming to blows.

What does the AAP allege?

Mr. Kejriwal has accused Mr. Saxena of issuing orders on "practically every" subject directly to the Chief Secretary who gets them implemented, completely bypassing the elected government. In a letter to the LG, Mr. Kejriwal said that barring the three reserved subjects of police, public order and land, executive control over all other subjects (transferred subjects) lies with the elected government but the LG has been issuing orders on these subjects and having them implemented by the bureaucracy. The AAP's stand is that the Supreme Court has said that the LG is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers on all transferred subjects. He can only invoke Article 239AA (4) of the Constitution if he differs with the decision of the Council of Ministers.

At loggerheads: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Deputy CM Manish Sisodia protesting Delhi LG's cancellation of the teacher training proposal. ANI

Where does the LG stand?

Replying to letters written to him, accusing him of bypassing the elected government, by Mr. Kejriwal, Mr. Saxena said that there are Constitutional provisions, Statutes and Acts that outline the multi-layered scheme of administration in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi that emanated out of serious deliberations in the Constituent Assembly, State Reorganisation Commission, and Parliament of India, interpreted by various Supreme Court judgments.

His office released a statement with a point by point rationale for taking decisions that were pointed out by Mr. Kejriwal and said that these decisions were taken by him as he was the "administrator of NCT of Delhi".

Do the LG and CM not meet regularly?

The LG and the Chief Minister are supposed to have weekly meetings every Friday. However, since October, these meetings have not taken place with the LG accusing the Chief Minister of not being available as he was busy with election campaigns in other States. Mr. Kejriwal met the LG after a long gap on January 13 but the meeting ended in a stalemate.

What are the other flashpoints?

Alice Vaz, Secretary, Information and Publicity, Delhi Government, has issued a notice to the Convenor of AAP to recover ₹164 crore spent on political advertisements of the Delhi Government that were published in the garb of government advertisements. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the Central government was misusing its control over officers through the "services department" to target AAP and its leaders in false cases. He questioned why bureaucrats of other States which advertise in newspapers outside their State do not send recovery notices to their Chief Ministers. The LG had directed the chief secretary to recover this money in December last year.

The LG also sent back a file from the government seeking permission to send teachers from Delhi government schools on an international teacher training programme to Finland, asking for a cost-benefit analysis. The Delhi Government saw this as a direct attack on its education model questioning why the LG was not approving a proposal that has been made by the elected government which had won a clear majority to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Delhi. The LG's office said it had not stopped the proposal but had asked for a cost-benefit analysis.

THE GIST

- The recent flashpoint between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena was triggered ahead of the January 6 election of the Mayor and deputy Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).
- Mr. Kejriwal has accused Mr. Saxena of issuing orders on "practically every" subject directly to the Chief Secretary who gets them implemented, completely bypassing the elected government.
- Mr. Saxena said that there are Constitutional provisions, Statutes and Acts that outline the multi-layered scheme of administration in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. His office released a statement with a point by point rationale for taking these decisions, as he was the "administrator of NCT of Delhi".

Why is Kerala opposing the new Electricity Rules?

What is Rule 14 in the new Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022? How are consumers going to be affected by the amended rules? Why is the State government blaming the Centre?

Tiki Rajwi

The story so far:

The gazette notification on the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, came out on December 29. Ever since the Union Power Ministry shared the draft rules with the States last August, the CPI(M)-led government in Kerala had fiercely objected to Rule 14 which permits distribution companies (Discoms) to automatically recover from consumers, on a monthly basis, the expenses arising out of variations in fuel price and power purchase costs.

What are the new rules?

The Centre introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, to amend the Electricity Rules, 2005. Rule 14 of the Rules requires the State electricity regulatory commission to specify a price adjustment formula for automatically passing on the costs through the consumer tariff on a monthly basis. "Fuel and power purchase adjustment surcharges shall be calculated and billed to consumers, automatically, without going through the regulatory approval process, on a monthly basis, according to the formula, prescribed by the respective State Commission," it says.

What has been Kerala's stand?

The State government has argued that giving Discoms the freedom to automatically pass on the aforementioned costs through the electricity bill endangers consumer interests. The amendment spawns an "unstable pricing situation" in the power sector, akin to that of petrol and diesel prices. Consumers would be subjected, quite unfairly, to frequent price fluctuations, it said. It further observed that the crucial role played by the State Electricity Commission in fixing the surcharge would get diluted. Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty declared that his department would seek legal advice on how best to enforce the rules without burdening the consumers of the state-run Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB). On January 11, Mr. Krishnankutty blamed the Centre for ignoring the State's stand and going ahead with the amendment.

What is the role of regulator?

Until now, KSEB would file petitions for collecting the thermal fuel surcharge before the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission on a quarterly basis. Since Kerala produces only 30% of its electricity demand within its borders, the power purchase expenditure, especially during the summer months when demand soars, is quite substantial. In the normal course of things, the Commission finalises a decision on the KSEB plea after holding a public hearing. According to the State government, doing away with this prudence check would put the general public at the receiving end.

What next?

With the Centre notifying the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, Mr. Krishnankutty convened a high-level meeting on January 10 to discuss measures to be adopted in the State. He directed the Power department to examine whether potential tariff fluctuations arising out of the new arrangement can be balanced through reduced tariffs during the State's extended monsoon months when power purchases and consumption levels are on the lower side. During rainy seasons, hydropower generation is high, meeting over 50% of the demand. The Minister has also suggested that, in the remaining months, power purchase costs should be kept to a minimum to avoid burdening the consumers. But experts argue that such safeguards would only work in a situation where a State-run entity like the KSEB is at the helm of things. They state the real concern lies in the future when they could get dumped in a scenario where private players enter electricity distribution in Kerala.

THE GIST

- The gazette notification on the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, came out on December 29.
- Rule 14 of the new rules permits distribution companies (Discoms) to automatically recover from consumers, on a monthly basis, the expenses arising out of variations in fuel price and power purchase costs.
- Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty declared that his department would seek legal advice on how best to enforce the rules without burdening the consumers of the state-run Kerala State Electricity Board.

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INBRIEF

Kempegowda International Airport T2 starts operations

The Terminal 2 (T2) of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) started domestic operations on Sunday, with Star Air being the first airline to begin flights from the new terminal.

The inaugural Star Air flight to Kalburgi took off from T2 at 8.40 a.m., and the turnaround flight from Kalburgi landed at 11.25 a.m.

Other domestic airlines are expected to start their services to and from T2, followed by international airlines, in a phased manner over the next few months, BIAL said.

'Indian Army ready to tackle any contingency along LAC'

Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande on Sunday said the Indian Army is maintaining a strong defence posture along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and is ready to tackle any contingency.

General Pande, while addressing the Army Day Parade 2023 in Bengaluru, said that despite difficult terrains and hostile weather conditions along the LAC, the Indian Army troops are serving fearlessly in these areas.

Bengaluru gets first evening post office on Museum Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India Post on Monday started an evening post office in Bengaluru, which is the second such post office in Karnataka after the first one opened in Dharwad last year.

The evening post office is situated on Museum Road and is an initiative by the Karnataka Postal Circle with an aim to serve and benefit working professionals, according to the postal department.

Timings

The post office will be functioning from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week. "It will be providing the public with various services, including speed post and parcel booking, Aadhaar services, my stamp, picture postcards, and philately ancillaries. It will not only benefit the schools and colleges around the area, but also all the companies and the IT sector here," said officials.

The evening post office was inaugurated by Chief Post Master General (CPMG), Karnataka Circle, S. Rajendra Kumar. The Karnataka postal department also organised a 4-km heritage walk which traversed through several historic structures in the city on Monday.

BBMP to build grade separator in Old Yelahanka to ease traffic towards airport

Civic body recently got green signal from the government for its construction at Kempegowda Circle under the Nagarothana scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> The stretch is known for traffic snarls and is used by vehicles going towards Kempegowda International Airport via the MS Palya-Yelahanka road. The project was long pending. A year back, we prepared a detailed project report and there is a need of a grade separator to decongest the traffic.
>
> **BBMP OFFICIAL**

To end the perennial traffic snarls on Old Yelahanka Road, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has planned to construct a grade separator at Kempegowda Circle, Old Yelahanka.

The BBMP has already done a geotechnical investigation for construction of the 534 metre-grade separator, which the BBMP says will help all vehicles going towards the Bengaluru airport. "The stretch is known for traffic snarls and is used by vehicles going towards Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) via the MS Palya-Yelahanka road. The project was long pending. A year back, we had prepared a detailed project report and there is a need of a grade separator to decongest the traffic," a BBMP official said. The Kempegowda Circle sees heavy traffic as vehicles coming from Vidyaranyapura, Tumakuru road, Hesaraghatta, Bagalagunte and MS Palya have to take this circle to reach Bengaluru International Airport.

The BBMP recently received the green signal from the Karnataka government for the construction of a grade separator at Kempegowda Circle under the Nagarothana scheme.

A traffic police officer from Kempegowda Circle said that the junction sees major traffic and not just during peak hours. "The traffic congestion on this stretch is bad and the congestion severely delays the motorists' travel time to the airport, " the official added.

Residents too agreed. Manoj N.M., a resident of Yelahanka, said that the traffic had grown a lot since the last few years in and around Yelahanka as it was closer to the airport.

Mithun Prasad, a resident of Yelahanka Old Town, said, "The civic body's plan to construct a grade separator at this junction would be helpful for people staying in nearby areas. However, the traffic police and BBMP should coordinate during the construction work and make sure that there will be no more traffic jams due to construction. Usually, during the construction work, the authorities don't coordinate and make the work a mess for the people."

2 constables suspended for allegedly planting drugs in man's bag

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two constables attached to the Bandepalya station who have been accused of planting drugs in the bag of a private firm employee on the pretext of checking and later extorting ₹2,500 from him in the early hours of last Wednesday have been suspended on Monday.

The accused allegedly confronted Vaibhav Patil while he was returning home from his shift and checked his bag and allegedly planted a twig of marijuana and later accused him of consuming and peddling drugs.

Mr. Vaibhav later put out a complaint on social media. C.K. Baba, DCP, south east division, said that the south east division night beat police have been given body-worn cameras and directed them to switch it on while on duty. However, in this incident the cameras were not switched on and hence action has been taken against them. Inquiry into the alleged corruption and planting of narcotics is on, he said.

Theme of this year's show is 'History of Bengaluru city'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 'History of Bengaluru city' has been chosen as the theme for this year's Republic Day Flower Show at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, organised by the Horticulture Department, which will be inaugurated on January 20 by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the Glass House. The curtains will come down on January 30.

To provide a glimpse into 1500 years of history, the artwork within the Glass House will reflect several important milestones of Bengaluru. Along with 'Giri Durga', a concept which symbolises the city, which was built on Durga, the exhibits will have replicas of Beguru inscription, which first mention the name Bengaluru, the 300-million-year-old Labagh rock, Roman era coin artefacts, Dodda Basavanna and Kadu Malleswara temples, art work of Vidhana Soudha, among others.

Various flowers like anthurium, lily, gerbera, *sevanthige*, orchids and carnations will be used in installations. An exhibition, which will include hundreds of artefacts, depicting the history of Bengaluru will be set up behind the Glass House, near the Java fig trees. This kind of exhibition is being organised for the first time during the flower show. The event will also showcase, flower pyramids, Janoor art, a dish garden, rare fruits and vegetables, tropical flowers and many more inside the glass house.

A file photo of the Republic Day Flower Show at Lalbagh Botanical Garden.

A total of 713 exhibitors will be taking part in this year's flower show, which is expected to attract around 10 lakh visitors over the course of the event.

The tickets will be priced at ₹70 for an adult on normal days, and ₹75 on holidays.

The cost of a ticket for children below 12 years will remain ₹30 on all days. Free entry has been arranged for school-going students up to the 10th standard with mandatory uniform and ID card.

Woman posing as doctor robs valuables

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ashoknagar police are on the lookout for a 35-year-old woman who, posing as a doctor, robbed valuables from women patients of St. Philomena's hospital on Saturday.

The accused came to see 72-year-old G. Sarasa and asked her son to go out since she had to check on her. While her son Ramesh Kumar J. was waiting outside the room, she removed the gold ring and gold chain weighing 46 grams, came out and asked Mr. Ramesh not to disturb the patient for 45 minutes.

The cheating came to light when a staff nurse came to draw blood sample for tests and upon questioning, she told Mr. Ramesh that the woman was not a doctor in the hospital. Suspecting something fishy, Mr. Ramesh went to check on his mother to see that the gold ring missing and the gold chain replaced with an artificial chain.

In his complaint, Mr. Ramesh said that the accused had stolen gold valuables from another patient identified as Komal N., 58, using similar modus operandi and asked her son Raju not to disturb her for 45 minutes.

Mr. Ramesh in his complaint alleged negligence and security lapse on part of the hospital administration leading to such thefts at the hospital. The police are analysing the CCTV footage to identify the accused and track her down.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2 (BSWML), 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru–560 052. Phone No: 6362975012

No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/ 14 /2022-23 Date: 16.01.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) SHORT TERM - TWO COVER TENDER

(Through e-procurement portal)

1. Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML invites tenders on behalf of the **Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or **before 16.00 hours on 31.01.2023** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Estimate Cost (Amount in Lakhs)	EMD	Cost of Tender form fee (Non-Refundable) inclusive of GST	Period of Completion
1	Supply and Installation of Food Waste Compost System including O & M.	200.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online/ RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.3,00,000/- by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank	As per e-Procurement Portal	12 months

1. Interested Eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and download the tender documents from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and the tenders are to be submitted online through the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** only. Tenders submitted in any other manner will not be accepted. Tenderers are required to obtain Level III digital signature from designated firms (available on the e-procurement portal) and then register with the Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform and submit tenders by using their ID and digital signature.
2. Pre bid meeting will be held on **23.01.2023 at 15:00 hours in office of the CE&CGM (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru- 560 026.**
3. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or **before 16:00 hours on 31.01.2023** and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on **01.02.2023 after 16:30 hours** at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
4. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: **080-22371090/22373788.** The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
5. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.
6. GST Shall be paid separately.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/4101/AAA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **Mrs. Anjali Sharma** has given Notice of Retirement from the Firm, Calico Trib Clothing LLP on 03.01.20223 and will become effective on the Expiry on 02.02-2023. Any one dealing with the firm after 03.01.2023 will be doing so only with **Ms. Shweta Shyam Jartarghar.**

SREEVATSA ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES
50, 2nd Stage Indiranagar, Bengaluru- 560038.
Bengaluru Dated: 17.01.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of immovable property more-fully described in the schedule hereunder **("Schedule Property")** from its present owner, **SRI. K. RAJASHEKHAR,** S/o late Rajendra Prasad. K, Aged about 40 years, Residing at No. 649, "Lakshmi Nilaya", 8th Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Main, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079.

Any person or persons asserting any charge, lien, right, title, agreement, interest or claim on the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the documents thereof or against the owner or objection to such sale in favour of my client should lodge his/her/their/its objections or claims with supporting documents with the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS (07 Days)** of the issuance of this Public Notice, after which period my client shall proceed with the purchase of the schedule property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Residential Vacant Site bearing No.523 and Municipal Corporation No-523** and layout formed by the HMT Employees Co-operative House Building Society Limited, which is formed in Sy. Nos-1/3A, 48/1 & 2, 49, 50/2 to 5, 51/8, 52/1, 53/1 & 2, 54/1 to 10, 55/1, 2A, 2B, 3,4 and 5, 56/1 to 4, 57, 58 59/1 & 2, 60, 61, 62/1&2, 63/1 to 4, 64, 66, 67/3 of Nagasandra Village and Sy. Nos-5/1, 5/2, 6/7 to 10,7, 8/1,8/2, 9/1, 9/2, 9/3, 10/1, 10/2, 11/1, 11/2, 11/3, 12/1 to 5 and 13/1 of Nelakadiranahalli Village, Now known as KRS Gowda Extension, HMT Layout, Nagasandra-Nelakadiranahalli, Bangalore and presently situated within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bengaluru Mhanagara Palike, Bengaluru, BBMP Ward No-39, Chokkasandra, Bengaluru **measuring - East to West : 40 feet or 12.19 Meters and North to South : 60 feet or 18.28 Meters, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet or 222.83 Square Meters** and bounded on that:-

East by :Site No-522,
West by :Site No-524,
North by :Road,
South by :Site No-486.

H. B. CHANDRASHEKAR
H.B. LAW ASSOCIATES,
Advocate,
No-4/20, 1st B Main Road,1st 'N' Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010
Bangalore Date : 17-01-2023

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division,Amruthnagara, Konanakunte Main Road, Soudhamini Layout, Bengaluru-62.

No: BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/13/2022-23 Date: 16.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single & Two Cover)(Only Through GOK e-Procurement)

The Executive Engineer, (Bangalore South Division), Bangalore-62, invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with KPWD/ CPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any state government organizations for the construction of works detailed below in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (Rs.)
1	Construction of Additional Floor in Ward Office in Ward No.225 Gottigere (2nd Call) **(Others)**	**200.00**	3,00,000/-
2	Improvements to CC Roads, Chunchaghatta Colony in Ward No. 221Konanakunte. **(Others)**	**7.16**	17,900/-
3	Repairs and Maintenance of Anganawadi Building in Ward No. 218 Subramanyapura.**(ST)**	**18.34**	22,925/-
4	Construction of Specially Disabled Friendly Toilets and Ramps at Uttarahalli in Ward No.217. **(Others)**	**11.00**	27,500/-
5	Improvements of roads and drains at AECS A Block & Surrounding area, Kudlu Village in Ward No.191 Singasandra (New Ward No.243 Kudlu. **(Others)**	**99.00**	1,98,000/-
6	Improvements of roads and drains to Lavakusha Nagara and 13th Cross, Beretena Agrahara in Ward No.227 Begur. **(Others)**	**99.00**	1,98,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in (2) Last date & time for uploading the filled Tender Document: **04.02.2023 upto 4:00 p.m.** (3) Date of Technical Bid opening : **06.02.2023 by 4:30 p.m.** (4) Financial bid opening will be done after Technical bid approval. (5) Sl.No.1, 5, & 06 is Two Cover Tender System and remaining Tender Single Cover Tender System.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division, BBMP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

No.: SEE/Tr(W&M)Circle/AEE(Civil)22-23/Cys-128 Date: 16.01.2023

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Manual mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites bid against this Enquiry No.:SEE/AEE(C)/Trans/W&M/DVG/22&23/CYS-128 Dated:16.01.2023 for the works coming in the Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere. The detailed notification regarding the works called through manual mode can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on or after 17.01.2023 during working hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Hadadi Road, Opp. Stadium, Davanagere-577 004. Ph. No. : 08192-2250774, Fax No.: 08192-231469

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -12/2022-23
Dated:12.01.2023

The Executive Engineer, P.R.E Division Hassan, on behalf of Governer of Karnataka has invited tender through e-procurement www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in under Head of account 5054 Flood and Adarsha Grama Yojane as per KW- 1, 4. The Contractor can have access to e-procurement documents from 16.01.2023 upto 25.01.2023 at 4.00 P.M. Last date for Submission of completed e-procurement documents upto 25-01-2023 upto 4.00 PM. Technical Bid of Works will be opened on 27.01.2023 after 4.00P.M. The opening of Financial Bid of the work will be notified after the approval of Technical bid. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said works can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/963/2022–23

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sagar Forest Division, Sagar
Ph:08183-226071 e-mail ID: dcfsagar123@gmail.com
No.: A2/BGT/RootStock-CR-26/2022-23 Date: 09.01.2023

Short-Term e-Tender re Notification
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Tender was invited through e-procurement in two cover system on 20.12.2022 from interested contractors for implementation of the work of constructing Barbed Wire Fence around forest area having good quality Root Stock in forest areas of Eechalakoppa S.No. 05 and H. Malavalli S.No. 85 of Hosanagara Zone of Sagar Regional Forest Division for the year 2022-23.

Since only one contractor has participated in the Tender, the said Tender is being cancelled and Short-Term Re Tender is invited through e-procurement in two cover system. Last date for submission of Tender for the said work is fixed on 17.01.2023 up to 4.30 PM.

Further information can be obtained through the official website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sagar Division, Sagar

DIPR/smg/No./109/01/mca/22-23/1687

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

Plagiarism and malicious intent: does ChatGPT have an ethics problem?

While cybersecurity experts are concerned about the chatbot correcting and enhancing nefarious code and even writing phishing emails, teachers and academicians are worried about the bot's impact on written assignments

John Xavier

In November 2022, OpenAI opened to users its most recent and powerful AI chatbot, ChatGPT, to test its capability. It amazed netizens all over the world with its range of answering questions across disciplines. The search interface could also generate fixes for broken code. The bot continues to attract diverse people to run experimental questions.

However, some users have been testing the bot's capability to do nefarious things. Illicit actors have tried to bypass the tool's safeguards and carry out malicious use cases with varying degrees of success.

Research outlet ArsTechnica shared some exchanges between several forum users and ChatGPT. These users claimed the chatbot helped them write malicious code even though they claimed to be amateurs.

ChatGPT is programmed to block obvious requests of writing phishing emails or code for hackers.

While it can close the gates for amateur coders looking to build malware, the more seasoned ones could trick the bot into correcting or enhancing malicious code they have partially developed.

They could get through the system by phrasing their request in an innocuous way.

A malicious code generator?

OpenAI notes that asking its bot for illegal or phishing content may violate its content policy. But for someone trespassing such policies, the bot provides a starting point. Cybersecurity firm Check Point's researchers tested the bot by asking it to draft a phishing email for a fictional web-hosting firm. In response, ChatGPT gave an impressive 'phishing email'. The generated reply included a warning that read: "This content may violate our content policy. If you believe this to be in error, please submit your feedback – your input will aid our research in this area."

While surreptitiously asking ChatGPT to write malware is one problem, another issue several coders face is the inherently buggy code (buggy code refers to code which either already has bugs in it or is written in a way that will introduce bugs in the future) the bot spews out. Things have gotten so bad that Stack Overflow, a forum for software programmers, banned its users from using any AI-generated code on the platform. Check Point researchers also tested the bot on multiple scripts with slight variations using different wordings. They note that large language models (LLM) can be easily automated to launch complicated attack processes to generate other malicious artefacts.

"Defenders and threat hunters should be vigilant and cautious about adopting this [ChatGPT] technology quickly, otherwise, our community will be one step behind the attackers," the company noted.

Plagiarism alert

Teachers and academicians have also expressed concerns over ChatGPT's impact on written assignments. They note that the bot could be used to turn in plagiarised essays that could be hard to detect for time-pressed invigilators. Most recently, New York City's education department banned ChatGPT in its public schools. The authorities have forbidden the bot's use in all devices and network connected to schools. It is not that plagiarism is a new problem in academic institutions; ChatGPT has changed the way AI is used to create new content. This makes it hard to single out copied content. "It's definitely different than traditional copy paste plagiarism. What we've noticed with AI writing, like these GPT models, is that they write in a statistically vanilla way," Eric Wang, VP, Artificial Intelligence at plagiarism detection firm Turnitin said.

Humans write based on metrics called "burstiness" and "surprise," while LLMs essentially fill in words based on a probability model. "They choose the most probable word in the most probable location far more often than a human writer," Mr. Wang explained. When the bot is controlled for these two metrics, the probability of a word in a particular spot jumps up and down, and is all over the place. Humans tend to deviate while writing, but models like GPT deviate much less on average. Turnitin's plagiarism detectors "can cue in that type of behaviour pretty reliably. And we have in the labs, detectors that are working quite well in terms of understanding student writing, versus GPT," Mr. Wang claimed. But there could be fewer such deviations in a more formal essay as such assignments demand a certain type of logical flow, which could be similar to a GPT-style response. So, in a scenario where the answers coming from a human and ChatGPT are in a similar zone, a different kind of pedagogy could help. Perhaps, looking beyond summarisation and reporting based on what is available on the Internet can help.

Comparing and contrasting something to modern events or writing own personal experiences aren't going to come from ChatGPT. So helping educators think through the different types of prompts to best assess students to help them stay away from using ChatGPT is important, Annie Chechitelli, Chief Product Officer at Turnitin, said.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Mattu Pongal, the third day of the Pongal festival, celebrates cattle and offers prayers to bulls, cows and other farm animals. In light of this event, here is a quiz on cows

Venkataraghavan Srinivasan

QUESTION 1
How many compartments does the stomach of a cow have?

QUESTION 2
What is a young female cow called?

QUESTION 3
Which State in India is the largest producer of milk?

QUESTION 4
What common name is used to describe the group of nomadic tribal people found primarily in Tamil Nadu and Kerala who historically made a living by travelling from place to place with a decorated bull, entertaining and fortune telling using their cattle?

QUESTION 5
How many teeth does a cow have?

Visual question:
Identify this breed of cattle.

Questions and Answers to the January 13 edition of the daily quiz: 1.This show's fictional dog tries to overcome its fears while protecting its adopted family. It's pilot episode was nominated for an Academy Award. **Ans: *Courage the Cowardly Dog***
2. This book by this famous author is about the disappearance of dogs, including the protagonist's dog, Scamper. **Ans: *Shock for the Secret Seven*; Enid Blyton**
3. The common link between Snoopy from the Peanuts comic and Daisy, the dog from the *John Wick* series. **Ans: Both are Beagles**
4. This magical beast of the wizarding world falls asleep to the sound of music. **Ans: Fluffy**
5. In this movie, the skinny dog becomes a metaphor for the oppressed community. Ans: ***Pariyerum Perumal***
6. In the Archie Comics, Hot Dog is the best friend of this character. **Ans: Jughead Jones**
Visual: This character's name came from this Frank Sinatra song. **Ans: Stranger In the Night**
Early Birds: Tania Neogi| Himani Sahai| Ashok Amirthalingam

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I thought that film would be a blockbuster

Apparently the movie bombed at the box office. Even the novel it was based on was not very good

S. Upendran

"So, what did you think of the movie?"
"I really enjoyed it. But I was really surprised to learn that it had bombed at the box office."
"Bombed at the box office? Does it mean the movie didn't make much money?"
"When you say that a movie bombed, it means, it flopped. It didn't make any money."
"In other words, it was a financial disaster."
"Yes, that's right! It was a failure."
"I have a feeling my favourite hero's next movie will bomb."
"Law of averages, I suppose. His two movies released last year were big hits. By the way, the word 'bomb' can be used with other forms of entertainment as well. Here's an example. *Revathi went into a depression when her play bombed*."
"How about this example? *Satish's latest novel bombed*."
"Sounds good!"
"And this use is mostly limited to informal contexts."
"Any idea what you call a movie that makes a lot of money?"
"In India, a movie that does really well at the box office is called a 'super hit'."
"Another term that is frequently used to refer to a film that is commercially successful is 'blockbuster'."
"Yes, I've heard that term being used. *Gladiator* turned out to be a blockbuster."
"So did movies like *Avatar, Top Gun*.."
"I thought as much. Tell me, what do...."
"No, you tell me. What is it that the words 'blockbuster' and 'bomb' have in common?"
"Based on the meaning, the only thing the two words have in common is money."
"No, that's not it. We all know what a 'bomb' is. It is something that explodes. A 'blockbuster' is a big bomb."
"You mean that the word has nothing to do with movies?"
"Not to begin with. You see, blockbuster was coined by the Americans during World War II. They had just made a huge bomb which was capable of destroying a relatively large area – an entire block, to be precise. So, they decided to call the bomb 'blockbuster'."
"Ok! But what's the connection between the bomb and a successful film?"
"A successful film is like a blockbuster because it wipes out or destroys all its competition."
"I see. It's interesting to learn how words are coined."
"Now they have coined a new word – couchbuster. Couchbusters are movies that are shown on regular streaming services like Amazon, Netflix, etc. Blockbusters that people can watch in the convenience of their home, sitting on their favourite couch."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Surreptitious:
marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed (used as an adjective)

Synonyms:
sneaky, stealthy, furtive

Usage:
He carried out a surreptitious search of his brother's belongings

Pronunciation: bit.ly/surreptitiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌsʌrɪpˈtɪʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Not all schools are giving egg in midday meals

A surprise visit by officials reveals that schools are distributing chikki and banana instead; increase in egg price is affecting distribution

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

As part of the plan to eradicate malnutrition in schoolchildren, the Department of School Education and Literacy is distributing egg, banana, and chikki to students of classes 1 to 8. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Many government and aided schools in the State have been missing out on distributing eggs to students in midday meals. Instead, some schools are distributing banana and chikki, revealed a surprise visit to schools by officials.

As part of the plan to eradicate malnutrition, anaemia, and deficiency of protein in schoolchildren, the Department of School Education and Literacy is distributing egg, banana and chikki as additional supplements weekly twice along with midday meals for students of classes 1 to 8. However, increase in egg prices is affecting the distribution of eggs to schoolchildren. While the department was paying ₹6 for each egg, in the market, each egg costs ₹7 now. The department is not providing additional fund for purchasing the eggs. As a result, some schools have been missing distributing eggs in the midday meals.

Even in the case of NGOs supplying midday meals to schools, wherein the distribution of eggs is the responsibility of the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC), eggs are not being given and students are getting chikki and banana instead.

A government school teacher said, "Irrespective of caste and community, most children like to eat egg. However, day by day the cost of egg is increasing in the market. The department is providing only ₹6 per egg. The department is releasing the amount for egg, chikki, banana once in three months and adjusting the fund for purchasing bulk egg is becoming problematic. Therefore, we request the government to revise the cost of egg purchase and release the amount early."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vishal R., Commissioner for the Department of Public Instruction, said, "Rate of egg is changing time to time and region to region. Now we are paying ₹6 for each egg and we heard that it is effecting distribution of the eggs for the schoolchildren. Till now, we have not got any written complaint from either schools or officers concerned in this regard. In case we get a complaint, we will definitely try to mobilise the additional amount through SDMC fund.."

Bescom cracks down on power theft and tariff violators

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cracking down on power theft, the vigilance wing of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) imposed fines up to ₹2.59 crore between September and December 2022 after inspecting 10,908 power installations.

While a total of 1,781 cases were registered across eight districts, 1,721 cases have been disposed of, Bescom reported.

The officials have also taken measures to collect pending dues in the last few months. "Initiating strict measures to collect arrears, Bescom has collected ₹358.3 crore out of the pending amount of ₹1,417.45 crore. Bescom has also disconnected 23 lakh installations for not paying arrears," said Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom.

Further, meter staff members imposed around ₹7 crore in fine over offences like misuse of tariff, over load and related violations after inspecting 2,373 meters between September and November. The officials have recovered ₹5 crore in fines so far. "Additionally, field officers also registered 4,784 cases of power theft, tariff violations and imposed fines of ₹6.5 crore," Mr. Bilagi said.

CID to probe 'Santro' Ravi case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Monday announced that the 'Santro' Ravi's case had been handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for a detailed probe.

The accused, Manjunath K.S. alias 'Santro' Ravi was arrested in Gujarat on Friday last following a rape and dowry harassment case filed against him by a woman.

Ravi, who is presently in Vijayanagar police custody in Mysuru, was accused of running transfer rackets, sex rackets, and is facing charges of human trafficking, cheating, domestic violence, and rape. Since the case has wider ramifications, the CID would be able to probe in detail, a senior police officer said. The case has been a major embarrassment to the government after an audio clip of him claiming to have close proximity with the Chief Minister, his son, the Home Minister and other Ministers and senior police officers went viral.

The accused, who was operating a sex racket since 2005 from across the State, was arrested but he continued with his activities. He claimed to have developed close proximity with politicians and senior police officers and got involved in transfer of officials and getting official work done using his contacts, sources said.

Judicial custody

Meanwhile, Ravi and his two associates were produced before a city court in Mysuru on Monday and remanded in judicial custody till January 25.

Even as the city police was planning to seek his custody for further questioning in the case of sexual harassment and dowry in a case registered against him in Vijayangar police station in Mysuru, the 6th JMFC court before which they were produced directed that they be continued in judicial custody after the public prosecutor apprised the judge that the case was being transferred to the CID.

However, advocate for 'Santro' Ravi, Harish Prabhu opposed the transfer of the case to CID on the grounds that it does not have the necessary "ingredients" for such a transfer to the CID.

The judge heard both the sides and remanded the accused in judicial custody till January 25.

From Page One

Traffic signal lights to be upgraded

This, he said, is going to expediate the movement of ambulances ferrying patients in the golden hour as the Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) is designed to give emergency response vehicles the green light. When the ambulance is close to a traffic signal, the device begins its work and allows it to pass through. Once the vehicle passes, the signal automatically turns red and continues to work as usual.

So far, the traffic police are managing the show manually and to help this expediate the situation, dedicated staff members of 108 have been provided a cabin at the traffic management centre to coordinate with the staff to help ambulances pass through signals with minimum time period, Mr. Saleem said. The project was proposed in 2015 and went through a series of tests before it was shelved for unknown reasons.

Many have welcomed the move stating that it was need of the hour considering the present traffic scenario. K.V. Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), said it is a much needed initiative. "It is going to help us save many lives within the golden hour," he added.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (January 17, Tuesday), the following explainer is available:

- The Delhi CM-LG stalemate continues
bit.ly/delhicmlg

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

First inter-city e-bus arrives in Mysuru from city

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Passengers being greeted by KSRTC officials on their arrival in Mysuru on Monday in an electric bus from Bengaluru. M.A. SRIRAM

The much-awaited inaugural run of inter-city service of electric bus in the State finally happened on Monday as the prototype of the zero emission bus that was procured recently from a Hyderabad-based manufacturer arrived around 10 a.m. at Mysuru from Bengaluru.

KSRTC officials greeted the passengers who arrived in the bus, at the mofussil bus-stand in the city.

Unlike the operations to Mysuru from Bengaluru that originate from the Satellite Bus-Stand on Mysore Road in Bengaluru, the electric bus started its journey from the Majestic Bus-Stand with a brief stopover at the Satellite Bus-Stand for picking waiting passengers, carrying about 35 commuters. The fare to Mysuru from Majestic is ₹320 per passenger while it is ₹ 300 per passenger from the Satellite Bus-Stand.

Officials said the bus can run for over 300 km with a single charge. This is the trial run of the electric bus services and the KSRTC has plans to introduce more such buses on routes other than Bengaluru and Mysuru in the days ahead.

KSRTC received the prototype of the electric bus under the FAME-2 scheme on December 31. It has plans to induct 50 electric buses, and deploy them on various routes, including Madikeri, Shivamogga, Davanagere and other key cities. The electric bus has been named as 'EV - Power Plus'.

The Hyderabad-based company will be operating the buses as per the contract it has entered into with the KSRTC. The company will operate and maintain buses for a certain number of years. The KSRTC will be paying the company on kilometre basis. The total number of seats in each bus is 47.

KSRTC operates the maximum number of Airavatha and Club Class services in the Bengaluru-Mysuru sector. Keeping this in mind, the KSRTC chose this sector for the launch of the first-ever electric intercity service.

THE HINDU
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Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JAN. 17	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:13
RISE 01:54	SET 13:41
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:14
RISE 02:53	SET 14:33
THURSDAY, JAN. 19	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:14
RISE 03:57	SET 15:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	18
Mysuru	31	13
Bengaluru	30	13

Bengaluru Today
30°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slightwarm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

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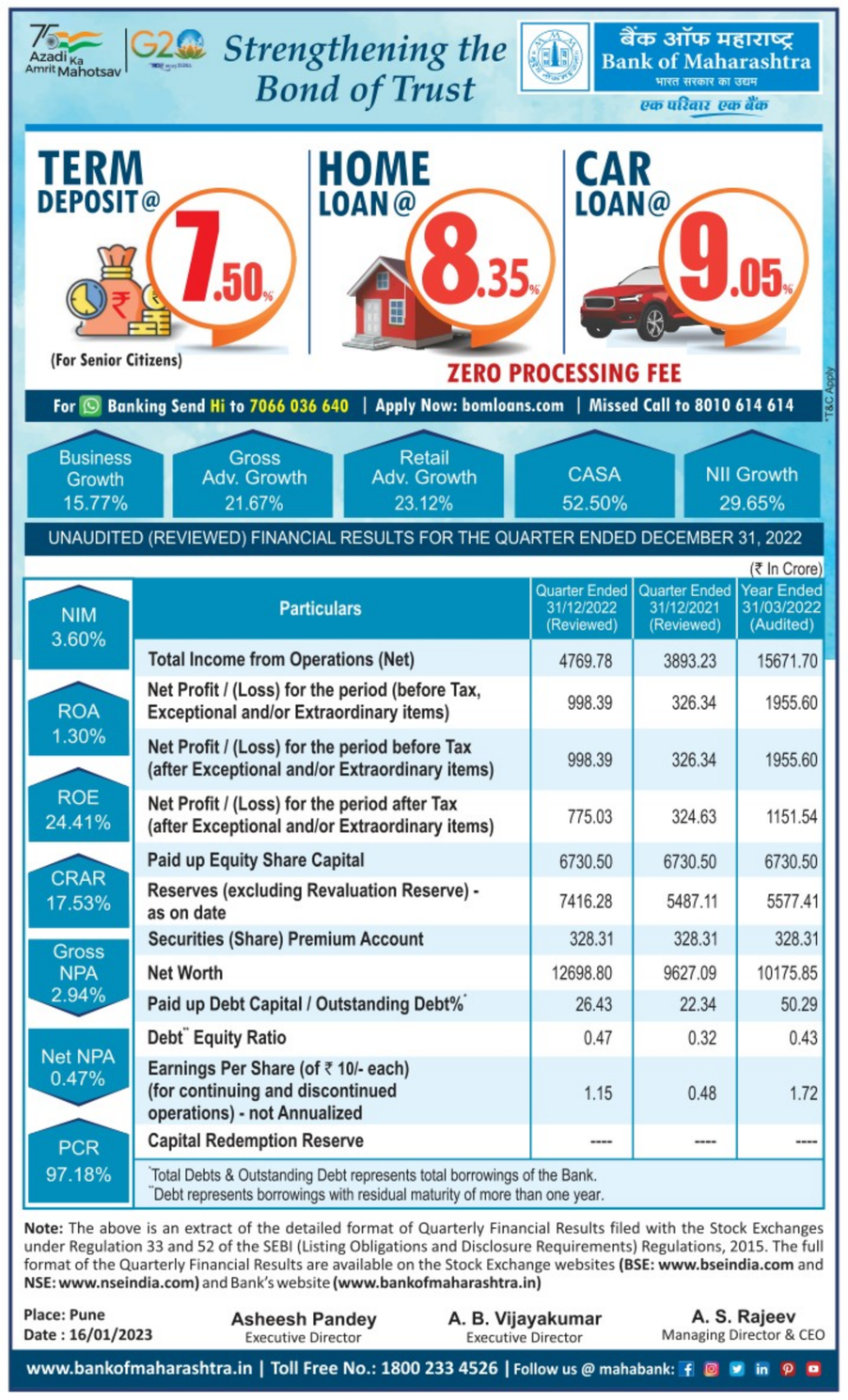

Particulars	Quarter Ended 31/12/2022 (Reviewed)	Quarter Ended 31/12/2021 (Reviewed)	Year Ended 31/03/2022 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations (Net)	4769.78	3893.23	15671.70
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	998.39	326.34	1955.60
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	998.39	326.34	1955.60
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	775.03	324.63	1151.54
Paid up Equity Share Capital	6730.50	6730.50	6730.50
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) - as on date	7416.28	5487.11	5577.41
Securities (Share) Premium Account	328.31	328.31	328.31
Net Worth	12698.80	9627.09	10175.85
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt%*	26.43	22.34	50.29
Debt** Equity Ratio	0.47	0.32	0.43
Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - not Annualized	1.15	0.48	1.72
Capital Redemption Reserve	----	----	----

*Total Debts & Outstanding Debt represents total borrowings of the Bank.
**Debt represents borrowings with residual maturity of more than one year.

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- Mobile Computing (PG-DMC)
- Geoinformatics (PG-DGi)
- Advanced Secure Software Development (PG-DASSD)
- Robotics & Allied Technologies (PG-DRAT)
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Last Date for Online Registration:18 Jan, 2023

visit: www.cdac.in or acts.cdac.in or www.stdc-t.in

Contact: **85478 82754 / 99958 82754 / 94472 47984**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that our client has agreed to purchase the property from **SRI. J. BABU, ALIAS BABU JAYARAM,** Aged about 48 Years, S/of Sri. Jayarama Reddy , R/at No 515, 8th Cross, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095, he having acquired the same from **Smt. N. Prema Venugopal (allottee) vide a Sale deed dt 28-04-2003 registered as Document No 1882 of 2003-04, in Book -1, in CD No 107, in the Office of Sub registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** and also a confirmation Sale deed **executed by Kendra Upadhyayara Sangha (Regd), Bangalore South Taluk vide sale deed 15-12-2022 , registered as Document No BMH-1-09154 of 2022-23, in CD No BMHD 1809 in the Office of Sub registrar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore.**

Any person, if having any claim over the property may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered Post with regard to such claim with the undersigned **within Seven days** hereof, failing which our client will proceed to complete the sale formalities on the basis that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No **570, BBMP Ward No. 66, New Ward No.173, PID. No.66-190-570** which is in layout formed by Kendra Upadhyayara Sangha (Regd), formed in Sy.Nos.45 and 47 of Jakkasandra village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and measuring East to West **12.19 Mtrs**. And North to South **9.14 Mtrs**, measuring in all **111.42 Sq.Mtrs**, together with a structure standing thereon and together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on ::

East by : Road, **West by** : Site No.521,
North by : Site No.569, **South by** : C.A.

Along with 2000 Sq feet of building consisting of Ground, First and Second Floor, thereon.

MR. BALARAJ. A. C. Advocates
No: No 618, 3rd Floor,
Rajaeshwari Market Building
Opp Ganesh Prasad Hotel, Avenue Road
Bangalore-560002, Ph:080-22253904
Email: mmargaret_2007@rediffmail.com

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC,

4th Floor, PWD Annexe Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-560001

No.PWD/02/PRAMC/2022-23 **Date: 16-01-2023**

Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tenders for Total 06 Road Safety works, 02 Road safety works in Hassan District, 03 Road Safety works in Uttara Kannada District and 01 Road Safety works in Dharwad District. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka e-procurement portal **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** from **Date : 17-01-2023, 05:30 PM** onwards.

DIPR/CP/4115/Sreshta/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRAMC**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K. R. Circle, Bangalore - 01. Phone : 080-2213 3370, Fax : 080-2213 3365
Email : eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com Web : www.kpwd.gov.in
E-Portal : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Tender Notification No. : 43/2022-23 **Date : 13-01-2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item-rate tenders, for the work in **Hosakote Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with **Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement** rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in **K.P.W.D.** as per e-procurement procedure. Tender Notification are **Published for 01 work (Rs. 175.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal.**

Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated : 13-01-2023 onwards. (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or **before 4.00 p.m.** on **Dated : 27-01-2023. (3)** The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on **Dated : 30-01-2023 at 11.30 a.m.** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/Urban/4069/Manipal/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that our Client **Mrs.Sheela, W/o.Somashekar**, proposes to purchase immovable property described in the `schedule' hereto from the Vendors **Mrs.Rosemarie.D.Jamwal D/o. late Col.W.H.Grant, Mrs.Angela Roberts, Mrs.Sheila Marie and Mr.Devashish Khattri, children of Late Ramona Maria and grandchildren of late Col.W.H.Grant, residents of No.674, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore.**

It is represented that the 'schedule property' was jointly purchased by **Mr.Patrick C** Grant, his father Col.W.H.Grant and mother Sheila Marie Grant. Mrs.Sheila Marie Grant bequeathed the said property to her son Patrick C.Grant under un-registered Will dated 21-06-2000. Col.W.H.Grant executed a registered Release Deed dated 29-09-2015 in favour of his son Patrick C.Grant. Therefore, Patrick C.Grant became the sole and absolute owner of the said property. Patrick C.Grant died on 08-05-2021 as a bachelor and without any issues, leaving behind the following persons to succeed to his estate:

a. Sister Mrs.Rosemarie.D.Jamwal D/o late Col.W.H.Grant
b. 2nd Sister Late Ramona Maria D/o late Col.W.H.Grant (decd.) by her LR's:
   I. Mrs.Angela Roberts D/o.late Ramona Maria
   ii. Mrs.Sheila Marie D/o.late Ramona Maria
   iii. Mr.Devashish Khattri S/o.late Ramona Maria

Thus, the Vendors claim that they are the absolute co-owners of 'schedule property', having the Khata transferred to their names and paying municipal taxes from time to time.

In the circumstances, contrary to the Vendors' claims, if any person claims to have any right, title or interest or any other claim over the `schedule property', such person/claimant may notify the undersigned in writing, with documentary evidence, within FIFTEEN days of the date of publication of this Notice.

If no claims or objections are received within the above said stipulated time, our Client will proceed to purchase the schedule property and claims received after the stipulated time will not be binding on our Client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable house property built on Site bearing Municipal No.674, HAL III Stage, Bangalore, (assessed to municipal taxes under PID No.74-8-674 coming within BBMP Ward No.74 Jeevanbhimanagar) & Eaasthi Khata No.1636532, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet totaling to 1,200 sft., and **bounded on** the: East by: Site No.673, West by: Site No.675, North by: Site No.693, South by: Road.

The Plinth area of the Ground and First floor building is 1,300 sft.

Sd/-
Shanthakumar Malagi - Advocate
No.106, First Floor, Blue Cross Chambers,
No.11, Infantry Road Cross, Bangalore-560 001,
Ph:080-46882965.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 13.01.2023

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382–220556 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08382–220795 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: predkarwar@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪಂರಾ.ಇಂ/ಕಾ/ಪಿಬಿ–1/2022–23/1648 ದಿ: 13.01.2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ–43/2022–23 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನವಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ 5054 ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ **Standard Tender Document** ನ **KW-II** ಹಾಗೂ **III** ರ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **ಒಟ್ಟು 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು.**

(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು **Technical Bid** ನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಬಿ ಮರಳಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2023** ರಿಂದ **23.01.2023** ರ ಸಂಜೆ **16.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ **Technical Bid** ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 16.31 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/MCA/841/22-23 dt. 13.01.23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **MRS. NILIMA VIJAY BHAT,** wife of Mr. Vijay Madhusudan Bhat, presently residing at 301 Grace Orchid, Anant Nagvekar Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025, she having purchased the same from M/s. Ashwini Promoters and Developers, under a Sale Deed dated 10.04.2007 which was registered as Document No. BNG(U)-VRT-256/2007-08 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Varthur, Bangalore.

All persons, banks, financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being **Residential Apartment No. 002** (BBMP Khatha Sl.No. 506, H-511/368/27), in the project known as **"REGENT PLACE GOLD"**, measuring **2132 sq.ft.** of super built up area along with private garden area, together with 2132/16000th undivided share, right, title and interest in Khata No. 28/2, House List No. 27 and 28 in **Thubarahalli Village,** Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District presently in Bangalore East Taluk and the land is bounded as follows:

East by : Property in Survey No. 28/3 and 29
West by : Road
North by : Survey No. 16
South by: Villa No. 124 and Club House, swimming pool and 'REGENT PLACE'.

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 16.01.2023

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-1/2022-23/5753-57 **Date: 16.01.2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis**:

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/GCB/289/Call-2 **for Providing New Buscoupler MCVCB on Bank-I along with additional 2 nos. of 11kV PCVCB feeders on B-II at 66/11KV Sub-station Santhebachalli.**

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/R&M/588/Call-2 Dtd: 12/01/2023 **for Strengthening of existing earthmat at 66/11kV Substation, Gundlupete.**

3) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/R&M/115 Dtd: 11.01.2023 **for Combined Package for strengthening of the existing earthing system by providing additional CI pipes & by replacing existing GI pipes by CI pipes & GI wires by GI flats at KM Doddi, Kirugavalu & Maddur in Maddur taluk, Mandya Dist.**

4) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/R&M/114 Dtd: 11.01.2023 **for Combined Package for strengthening of the existing earthing system by providing additional CI pipes & by replacing existing GI pipes by CI pipes & GI wires by GI flats at KIADB Mandya & Mandya in Mandya taluk, Mandya Dist.**

The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link **"e-Procurement"** OR **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **21.01.2023.** Any further details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, Mysuru-07.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Ph : 080 - 4110 6508
e-mail:cemkwb@gmail.com Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

ISO 9001:2015 NVT-QC CERTIFICATE NO. 2790085

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement portal only)

The tender for the following Consultancy work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement from eligible Consultancy Agencies as detailed below:

No.KWB/TEC/CE(D&M)/AMRUT 2.0/PDMC/Tender/1907/2022-23, dated:13.01.2023

1) Name and description of work : Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Project Development and Management Consultant (PDMC) for Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 works in Karnataka State.

Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 3282

Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : 1,37,00,000

Tender Processing fee (Rs.) : As per e-procurement portal

Calendar of Events:-

1) Documents will be available from: 16-01-2023. 2) Last Date & Time for seeking Queries / Clarifications: 24-01-2023 at 11.00 hours. 3) Date of Pre bid meeting: 24-01- 2023 at 11.30 hours. 4) Last date and time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal: 14-02-2023 upto 17.30 hours. 5) Date and time for opening of Technical bid: 17-02-2023 after 11.00 hours. 6) Date and time for opening of Financial bid 23-02-2023 after 11.00 hours.

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer (D&M), KUWS & D Board, Bangalore, may please be contacted or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or e-Procurement helpdesk 080-22371090 / 22373788, email support: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.

DIPR/CP/4104/AKAR/22-23 **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (D&M), KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU**

KARNATAKA VETERINARY ANIMAL AND FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, NANDINAGAR BIDAR

E-mail: eokvafsu@gmail.com

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.111/Architect/2022-23 Date:16.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

1) Works / Goods / Services Details : Work list enclosed. 2) Works / Goods / Services estimated Amount : As mentioned e-portal. 3) Contractors eligibility details : As mentioned e-portal. 4) Works / Goods / Services Tender Amount Details : As mentioned e-portal. 5) Last date for obtaining blank tender forms : 23.01.2023 up to 5.00 PM. 6) Cost of tender form and EMD details : As mentioned e-portal. 7) Last date for submitting application : 23.01.2023 up to 5.00 PM. 8) Opening of Technical bid: 25.01.2023 at 11.30. AM. 9) Verification of uploaded tender documents with originals. Tenderer has to personally come with original tender documents for verification and also submit one set of notarized copies of the same at Estate Branch, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar, Bidar 585226 (Next working day, in case it is declared as a holiday). Failing to do this, the firm will be rejected : 27.01.2023 at 10.00 A.M. 10) Opening of financial bid : 30.01.2023 at 11.30. AM 11) For more details contact office address, contract numbers : Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446. 12) Website details: e-procurement portal- www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/415/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar**

Government of Karnataka

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Div., Chitradurga.

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB-2/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 43/2022-23/ **DATE: 16.01.2023**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.-4 (TWO COVER SISTEM)

Item rate tender in two cover system as per rule 28 of KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I & II contractors Registered in PWD & Eligible Agency/Consultancy for the following work through e-procurement portal. The tender documents may be downloaded from official website of Karnataka Government. Tender should be submitted through online in official e-procurement portal only. Tenders will be opened as per the guidelines of e-procurement portal.

Eligibility of Contractors: Class-1 Contractors Registered K. P.W.D. Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender: 06.02.2023 upto 05:30 P.M. Last Date for submission of Tenders: 08-02-2023 upto 04:00 P.M. Date & Time of Opening of Tender (If possible): Technical Bid- 09.02.2023 after 04:30 P.M. Finacial Bid-10.02.2023 after 10:30 AM.

Name of work: (1) PROVIDING MICRO IRRIGATION FACILITY FROM TUNGABHADRA RIVER TO SRI SHANKAR NAIKA S/O PURYANAIK, AK MANJAPPA S/O AK DURGAPPA AND TO THE LANDS OF SCHDULE FARMERS IN DAGINKATTE VILLAGE, CHANNAGIRI TALUK DAVANAGERE DIST. ON TURNKEY BASIS (Call-2). **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 850.23 Lakhs. **E.M.D.:** Rs. 12.76 Lakhs. **Period of completion (including rainy season):** 11 Months. **Class of Contractor:** Class-1 Contractors Registered K.P.W.D. (2) PROVIDING MICRO IRRIGATION FACILITY FROM TUNGABHADRA RIVER TO SMT. PRAMEELAMMA W/O BHUTHAPPA AND TO THE LANDS OF SCHEDULE TRIBE FARMERS IN NILOGAL VILLAGE, CHANNAGIRI TALUK DAVANAGERE DIST (Call-2). **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 855.36 Lakhs. **E.M.D.:** Rs. 12.83 Lakhs. **Period of completion (including rainy season):** 11 Months. **Class of Contractor:** Class-1 Contractors Registered K.P.W.D.

Note: Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 16.01.2023. Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, Arati Sarkar W/o Binoy Bhuson Sarkar D/o Raj Kumar Deb R/o #1300, GF, 12th Cross, 1st Stage, 1st Chandra Layout, Nagarbhavi, B'lore - 560072 declare that my correct DOB is 01/03/1956 instead of 01-03-1946

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shrikantha S/o Narayan Naik, residing at Ganesh Krupa, 2nd Cross, Ashok Nagar, Ranebennur, Haveri, Karnataka - 581115, changed my name to Shrikanth Narayan Naik for all purposes in future.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ilamurugu Victor alias Victor Ilamurugu alias Ilamurugu V S/o Dhavamoney Victor, R/o: 303 Sri Gayatri Paradise, Hennur Cross Kalayan Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560043, changed my name to Isaac Ilamurugu Victor for all purposes in future.

I, Suresh Babu B M S/o Chidanandappa B M , residing at No. 59 Ramadurga, Near Post Office Ramadurg , Bellary, Karnataka - 583130, have changed my name to Shreyank Kalyan for all purposes in future.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMAR, R/a No.1/8, Subbanna Garden, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Adugodi, Bangalore-560030 have changed my name to Amar Anneppa vide affidavit dt: 16.01.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'lore.

I, Umeshwar Virupaxayya Deshmukhmath alias Umeshwar V Deshmukhmath alias Deshmukhamath Umeshwar Virupaxayya alias Umeshwar Deshamukhamath S/o Virupaxayya Deshmukhmath, residing at Flat No. 115 Shashank Aikya Apartment, Amba Bhavani Temple Rd, Yelahanka Post , Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560097, have changed my name to Umeshwar Virupaxayya Deshmukhmath for all purposes in future.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU
IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION OF TT TECHNO PARK MANAGEMENT SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED AND TT BHARAT INTEGRATED LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED WITH TECHNOTRENDS AUTOPARK PRIVATE LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS

CP (CAA) No. 50/BB/2022
Connected with
CA (CAA) No: 44/BB/2022

TT TECHNO PARK MANAGEMENT SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
Plot No. 33 & 34, Bidadi Industrial Area, District Ramanagara, Karnataka - 562109
.....FIRST PETITIONER COMPANY/ FIRST TRANSFEROR COMPANY

TT BHARAT INTEGRATED LOGISTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
Plot No. 33 & 34, Bidadi Industrial Area, District Ramanagara, Karnataka - 562109,
...SECOND PETITIONER COMPANY /SECOND TRANSFEROR COMPANY

TECHNOTRENDS AUTOPARK PRIVATE LIMITED
Plot No. 33 & 34, Bidadi Industrial Area, District Ramanagara, Karnataka - 562109,
..... THIRD PETITIONER COMPANY/ TRANSFEREE COMPANY

NOTICE

A Petition under Sections 230 and 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanctioning the Scheme of Amalgamation of TT Techno Park Management Services INDIA Private Limited (First Transferor Company) and TT Bharat Integrated Logistics Private Limited (Second Transferor Company) with TechnoTrends AutoPark Private Limited (Transferee Company) and their respective shareholders was presented by the Petitioner Companies on 07.11.2022 and the said Petition came up for admission on 03.01.2023 and is fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on 09.02.2023.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's advocate at the address mentioned below, notice of such intention, in writing, signed by him/her or his/her advocate, with his/her full name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner's Advocate, not later than two (2) days before the date fixed for hearing of the Petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit, shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same, on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Date : 17th January 2023
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-
SAJI P JOHN
SPJ Legal, Advocates
Unit no 306, 3rdFloor, #30, Prestige Meridian II,MG Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Ph: +91 9845209798,
Email : saji@spjlegal.com

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

O/o The Chief General Manager (Tech), 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanthnagar Bengaluru-560 052

No: CGM (TECH)/ BSWML/ TEND/ 07/ 2022-23 **Date: 16-01-2023**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

(Through GOK e–ProcurementPortal only)

1. The Chief General Manager (Tech), on behalf of Managing Director, BSWML, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** under login for Contractors: After login to Contractors, please scroll down to the right-side bottom to see List of Tenders, please click there to find the details of RFP and download copy of the tender. The tender document can be downloaded in the portal from **18.01.2023.** Only Interested Service Provider who wishes to participate should remit online transaction fee for tender after registering in the portal. The transaction fee is non-refundable.
3. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or **before 16.00 hours on 04-02-2023** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimate cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract period
1	Establishment and Improvements to Transit Points in Govindarajanagara Constituency.	572.00	7.80	As per e-Portal	9 Months
2	Establishment and Improvements to DWCC centre, Seggregation Centre and Transit points in Padmanabhanagar Constituency.	519.00	7.80	As per e-Portal	9 Months
3	Improvements and development of dry waste collection center (DWCC) in Chickapete Assembly Constituency.	420.00	6.30	As per e-Portal	9 Months

NOTE:

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on **24.01.2023 at 15:00 hours** in office of the **Chief General Manager (Tech) BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Buidling, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-560052.**
2. Technical qualification documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or **before 16:00 hours on 04-02-2023** and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on **06-02-2023 after 16:30 hours** at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderer's responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: **080-22371090/ 22373788.** The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.
5. GST shall be paid separately if applicable.

Time Schedule/Calendar of events:

1	Last Date & Time for uploading Qualification documents	:	**On 04-02-2023 upto 16:00 Hrs**
2	Pre Bid Meeting	:	**On 24-01-2023 at 15.00 Hrs**
3	Opening of Tender	:	**On 06-02-2023 at 16.30 Hrs**

DIPR/CP/4124/AAA/2022-23 **Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML**

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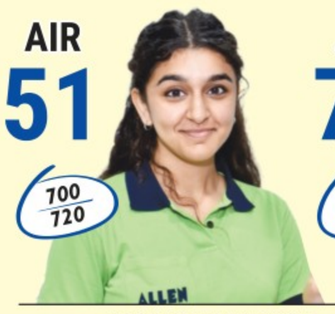
AIR **51**



700/720

JAHNAVI BANOTRA
Classroom
AIIMS DELHI

AIR **70**

700/720

ROHIT SURESH
Classroom
AIIMS DELHI

AIR **170**

695/720

ANANYA SHAHI
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RAHUL SURESH C
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HITHYSH L KANTH
Classroom JEE Adv.+NEET UG
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DATTABHASVANT G
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IISC BANGALORE

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AAKANSHA MENON
Classroom
BMCRI

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SNEHA KUMARI
Classroom
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AKHILESH R
Classroom
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660/720
PRAJWAL
Classroom
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JEE (Adv.) 2022

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23 in Top **1000 AIR** | **46** in Top **2000 AIR**

AIR **13**

AIR **27**

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IIT BOMBAY

TEJAS SHARMA
Classroom
IIT BOMBAY

AIR 137

AARAV GIRI
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IIT MADRAS

AIR 378

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IIT MADRAS

AIR 480

HITHYSH L KANTH
Classroom
IIT MADRAS

AIR 491

NIKHIL G. ZAWAR
Classroom
IIT DELHI

AIR 646

VIRAL CHITLANGIA
Classroom
IIT KANPUR

AIR 669

ADITYA VEMA R K
Classroom
IIT BOMBAY

AIR 692

RAUNAK MUKHERJEE
Classroom
IIT BOMBAY

AIR 738

TUSHYA KHANDELWAL
Classroom
IIT DELHI

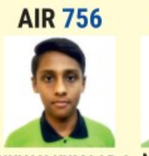
AIR 750

VENKAT A
Classroom
IIT MADRAS

AIR 753

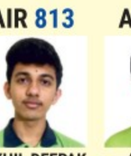
SAHIL KR. VERMA
Classroom
IIT MADRAS

AIR 756



BHUVAN KUMAAR A
Classroom
IIT MADRAS

AIR 813



NIKHIL DEEPAK
Classroom
IIT MADRAS

AIR 817

ADITYA V
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INBRIEF

Two die in bullock race accidents in Shivamogga

Two people died in two separate incidents of bullock race accidents in Shivamogga district in the last two days. Lokesh, 32, a resident of Alkola village, suffered serious injuries when one of the bullocks rammed into him in the race held at Konagavalli in Shivamogga taluk on Sunday. He was admitted to McGann Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries on Monday. Six more people suffered injuries in the event. In another incident, Ranganath, 24, of Anavatti in Shikaripur taluk, suffered grievous injuries during the bullock race held at Malur in Shikaripur taluk on Saturday. He too succumbed to his injuries on Monday.

No commission for Pancharatna schemes: HDK

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy said that he would take measures to ensure that no commission or percentage was taken by any politician or official during the implementation of Pancharatna programmes if the party is voted to power. "People- centric programmes will be implemented with commitment and people's money will be spent with integrity. We will not allow public money to go waste," he told reporters during the farmers' Sankranti programme at Bidadi. Meanwhile, the Pancharatna Yatra of the party will commence from Indi in Vijayapura district from Tuesday.

Nadda to launch Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra at Vijayapura

BJP national president J.P. Nadda will launch the Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra at Vijayapura to reach out to over two crore voters in the State through door-to-door campaign, said Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan on Monday. He told reporters that the yatra will be held from January 21 to 29, and that former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel will take part in the inaugural function at Vijayapura on January 21.

Nafees Fazal upset over being denied seat on dais

Former Congress Minister Nafees Fazal on Monday said she was denied a seat on the dais of the 'Na Nayaki' programme organised by the State Congress at the Bengaluru Palace Grounds. Speaking to *The Hindu*, she said: "I was pulled and pushed by some women inspectors" and not allowed to take a seat on the dais. "They prevented me from taking the seat on the dais at the instructions of the party," she said. "I am a social activist and primary member of the party," Ms Fazal said. Upset over the incident, Ms Fazal said she would hold a press conference at the Press Club of Bengaluru on Tuesday and provide more details of the incident. Former Minister Umashree was in charge of giving special passes to women leaders to occupy chairs on the dais.

From Page One

Cong. promises ₹2,000 a month for every woman head of households

"I am told that the situation in Karnataka is very shameful. I am told that your Ministers are taking 40% commission on jobs," Ms. Vadra said during the women-centric convention titled 'Na Nayaki' at the Palace Grounds here.

She alleged that ₹ 1.5 lakh crore of public money had been looted in Karnataka. "Think about some development that has to take place in Bengaluru for ₹8,000 crore and ₹3,200 crore is going as commission," Ms. Vadra alleged.

On the alleged police sub-inspectors' recruitment scam, Ms. Vadra said: "nothing moves without paying bribes in Karnataka. There are shameful scams such as the PSI scam where the police posts are being sold. You educate your children, the young boys and girls to get them jobs. Is this what you expect from the people in power?" the Congress leader asked. She alleged that people had to pay bribes for borewells, driving licences, housing, transfers and almost everything related to government work. She asked women of the State to raise their voice against the "atrocities" committed by the ruling BJP, against them.

The Congress firmly believed that "if a woman is empowered, an entire family and consequently our nation is empowered; we've thus decided to make this landmark promise of providing a basic universal income for women in the State." Ms. Vadra urged women to recognise their power. She said: "it is you and only you who can make a change. Make this election about you and your future."

Now, contractors make commission charge against BJP MLA Thippareddy

Karnataka State Contractors' Association accuses him of demanding and receiving bribe for works taken up in Chitradurga constituency; the BJP leader rejects the allegation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association at a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In yet another embarrassment to the BJP government, which is facing charges of corruption from the Opposition, the Karnataka State Contractors' Association on Monday accused senior BJP legislator G.H. Thippareddy of demanding and receiving bribe for works undertaken in Chitradurga constituency.

Association Working President R. Manjunath released a purported audio of him with the legislator in this regard, and claimed that he had paid close to ₹90 lakh as commission to the legislator in the last three years, a claim rebuffed by Mr. Thippareddy. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters at Hubballi that he was not aware of the audio, and that he could react only after hearing it.

Mr. Manjunath claimed that the association still had documents/audios of about 13 legislators and four Ministers, which they would release shortly. He also said that they would approach the Lokayukta with documents.

The claim comes after the association last year charged the BJP government of seeking 40% commission in public works implemented in the State that led to the Congress launching 'PayCM' campaign to highlight the corruption charge. The death of contractor Santosh Patil had led to resignation of then Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K.S. Eshwarappa. The association on Monday also clarified that commission was there during the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) governments too, but has increased now.

Stating that there was no corruption or commission in Chitradurga earlier, Mr. Manjunath said: "Corruption was started by Mr. Thippareddy. The association sent two letters highlighting commission and corruption through registered post to Mr. Thippareddy. We have all the documents to prove our allegations. Contractors are being harassed for money." Mr. Manjunath said that the percentage for commission was conveyed by the legislator using hand signals.

Rejecting the allegations, Mr. Thippareddy told *The Hindu* that he and Mr. Manjunath had a political feud, and that the allegations was being hurled at him now as elections are approaching.

He said that the allegations were baseless and done with a malafide intention. "He wants all the work for himself or persons he would recommend. I stopped that in the last three years. PWD Minister C.C. Patil had also rebuked him publicly last year. The public in Chitradurga know about his antecedents. I will discuss with the party and take a decision on legal challenge."

Meanwhile, the contractors' association announced that it will hold a protest rally on January 18 in Bengaluru to press for their demands, which include release of pending bills worth ₹25,000 crore for works executed across the State.

Despite promises by Mr. Bommai, their demands for not floating tenders under packages had not been met even as the works are being taken up after seeking exemption under KTTP Act.

Panchamasali row: Yatnal says he has been called to Delhi by BJP high command

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami has said the agitation will continue at Freedom Park, until there was a specific order regarding 2A reservation to the community

At a time when the seer of Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha at Kudalasangama, Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, has begun an indefinite agitation at Freedom Park in Bengaluru seeking increase in reservation and the stand-off between Panchamashali leaders former Union Minister Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani has reached a flash point, the BJP high command is reportedly attempting a truce.

According to Mr. Yatnal, the high command has called him to New Delhi to discuss the issue of 2A reservation for Panchamasalis. Mr. Yatnal on Sunday seemed optimistic about the long-pending demand getting fulfilled and told presspersons that he had received a phone call from party's senior leaders in Delhi who had asked him not to make any controversial statement on the reservation issue and against State leaders of the party. The party high command was positive about the community's demand and he was expecting good news from the Centre soon, he said.

Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami told *The Hindu* that Mr. Yatnal had conveyed to him about the message from the BJP high command.

The seer said that the agitation would continue at Freedom Park, until there was a specific order regarding 2A reservation to the community.

Harihar Peetha

Meanwhile, at Harihar, the seer of Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha, Vachanananda Swami, took an oath not to sit on the silver throne at the mutt and not to participate in 'tulabhara' until the demand of the community was met.

He made the announcement during the first anniversary of his anointment as seer of Harihar Peetha on Sunday.

Ethanol units can't be set up within 15 km of a sugar factory: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A factory for production of only ethanol is also considered as a "sugar factory" as per the changes made in the laws, and restriction imposed in the law against setting up another "sugar factory" within 15-km radius of the existing one applies even for establishing a factory to produce only ethanol, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Analysing the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order from 1966 and 2021, the court said that from 2021, the manufacture of both sugar and ethanol was not necessary and the manufacture of either sugar or ethanol was sufficient to define it it as "factory or sugar factory" under this law.

Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by Askins Biofuels Pvt Ltd., and Shri Bhramanandasagar Jaggery Industries. The petitioners had questioned the July 25, 2022, order of Commissioner for Cane Development and Director of Sugar directing Askins to stop construction of ethanol factory, not to commence production of ethanol using sugarcane juice, and directing Bhramanandasagar not to supply sugarcane juice to Askins.

The commissioner had restrained establishment of ethanol factory as it was abutting the area in which permission for establishment of a sugar factory was granted to Alagawadi Bireshwar Sugars Pvt. Ltd.

The petitioner companies had claimed that restriction of setting up "sugar factory" within 15-km radius applies only if both sugar and ethanol are produced in the same premises and a factory, which intends to manufacture ethanol by not crushing sugarcane but directly procuring sugarcane juice cannot be defined as a "factory or sugar factory" under the law.

However, the court pointed out the manufacture of both sugar and ethanol was necessary till 2021 to describe the manufacturing unit as a "sugar factory" under Sugarcane (Control) Order to attract 15-km radius restriction.

From 2021 onwards, on analysing the language and punctuation mark used used in the definition of 'factory' in the Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order, 2021, the court said even if only ethanol was manufactured in a premise/factory, it became a "sugar factory" by way of a legal fiction created in the definition. It was not necessary for sugar also to be produced for it to be considered as a "sugar factory" and consequently, the restriction of 15-km radius attracted even for setting up a factory to manufacture only ethanol, it said.

It is obvious that this definition became necessary since the manufacture of ethanol was based on sugarcane juice/sugar syrup/molasses, byproducts of sugarcane, and as a consequence the procurement of sugarcane by existing factories would be hampered if a factory manufacturing ethanol was permitted, the court said.

It's a pity Priyanka Gandhi has to declare herself as leader: Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Mocking Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi's advertisement ahead of her visit to Bengaluru, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said it was a pity that Congress had reached such a situation where Priyanka Gandhi had to declare herself as leader.

Speaking to presspersons in Hubballi on Monday, Mr. Bommai said as the women of Karnataka were not ready to accept her as their leader, Ms. Priyanka had to make a self-declaration claiming herself to be their leader.

He said no one would oppose her visit, but it was clear by the advertisement titled 'Na Nayaki' (I am leader) that she had made the self-declaration, he said.

On Budget

On the assurance by the Congress about presenting a separate Budget for women on coming to power, Mr. Bommai said that as the Congress knew that it would not come to power, their leaders were coming out with all kinds of promises.

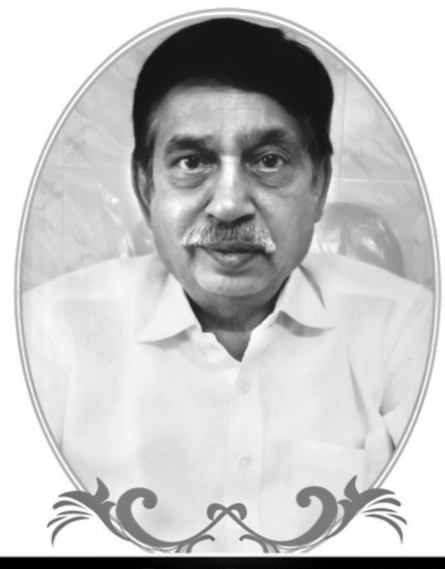
On Congress leaders terming the 'yuva janotsava' (youth festival) as 'yuva vinashotsava' (festival of youth destruction), Mr. Bommai said the comments indicated the mindset of the party leaders.

"The Congress does not know to appreciate good works," Mr. Bommai said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In loving memory of



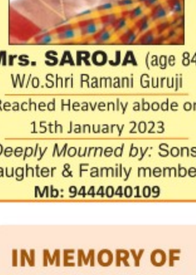
Shri K. G. SHANKAR

(26.06.1950 - 17.01.2021)
Former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Pondicherry.
Former BJP Treasurer, Pondicherry.
Founder of **Fluorides and Chemicals**, Pondicherry.
Founder of **Ferrum Products**, Tuticorin.

Fondly remembered by :
Your Family Members & your Grandsons

#24, FIRST MAIN ROAD, ELANGO NAGAR, PONDICHERRY. ✆ 81100 11222

DEATH



Mrs. SAROJA (age 84)
W/o.Shri Ramani Guruji
Reached Heavenly abode on 15th January 2023
Deeply Mourned by: Sons, Daughter & Family members
Mb: 9444040109

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
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DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

In Gavi, confusion reigns over buffer zones

As heated debates on buffer zones rage across the forest-fringe settlements outside, residents of the village, a bulk of whom are descendants of Sri Lankan Tamil repatriates who were rehabilitated here in 1970s, are unclear on how the buffer zone markings and resettlement will impact their lives

Hiran Unnikrishnan
PATHANAMTHITTA

A hornbill calls in Kochu Pampa, its two-note sound echoing through the woods and the line houses that once were a busy neighbourhood.

In the past, curious children from these lanes would come rushing out in response to the bird calls. But today, almost four-and-a-half-decades after Sri Lankan Tamil refugees were settled in one of Kerala's remotest village, several houses lie vacant. The settlement here falls within the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

As heated debates on buffer zones rage across the forest-fringe settlements outside, confusion on the impact of the buffer zone markings and resettlement reigns supreme among the residents here. Adding to their confusion was an earlier proposal by the Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC), which manages the area, seeking their willingness to relocate.

While the older generation fear they will be forced to leave the settlement, the youngsters appear keen to move out. "I do not own anything here but this forest has been my life since I

Unclear future: A resident of the plantation line houses in Kochu Pampa at Gavi in Kerala. LEJU KAMAL

was 18. I will take my last breath here," Yeshu, a 64-year-old cancer patient who now survives on a monthly pension from the KFDC, said.

A bulk of the nearly 350 families residing here are descendants of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who were rehabilitated here in the 1970s. With cardamom plantations losing their sheen, the residents are left with fewer options.

"I have been allotted some land at Angamoozhi in Pathanamthitta under the LIFE Mission programme. But my employment prospects are limited in the rubber-dominant villages of Pathanamthitta and I will have to travel across this forest every day to work in the cardamom plantations of Idukki," Manikandan, 43, said.

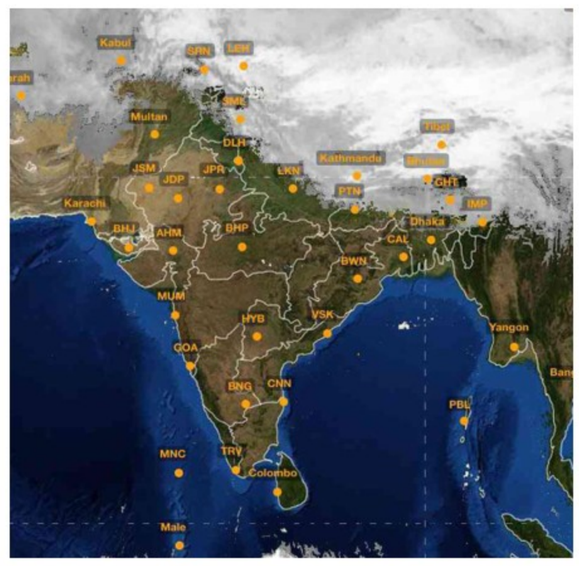
The forest officials too appear in a state of confusion over the future of the village with the lease period of plantations set to expire by 2025. "Every feature of the forest here has a significance in Gavi's life as the people here rely on products collected there to sustain life. In this context, one-time compensation for rehabilitation is not going to be enough," a forest officer said.

When contacted, KFDC officials said they were awaiting for a clarity on the buffer zone demarcation on the plantation area.

"It is for the Forest Department to define whether Gavi is part of the buffer zone or not. Till then, there will be no regulations on the activities under the management plan, that is cardamom cultivation and tourism," K.V. Sajeer, KFDC Divisional Manager, said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions likely in some areas of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	24.4	12.6	Kozhikode	—	33.0	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	25.8	7.6	Kurnool	—	34.0	16.2
Aizawl	—	—	6.5	Lucknow	—	19.3	5.0
Allahabad	—	21.8	5.4	Madurai	—	31.9	18.5
Bengaluru	—	30.3	13.4	Mangaluru	—	32.8	21.5
Bhopal	—	20.9	7.0	Mumbai	—	27.6	15.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.4	20.0	Mysuru	—	—	9.0
Chandigarh	—	19.4	4.8	New Delhi	—	18.7	1.4
Chennai	—	29.2	19.6	Patna	—	20.0	9.0
Coimbatore	—	32.0	17.4	Port Blair	—	29.8	20.2
Dehradun	—	18.4	10.4	Puducherry	—	30.6	17.8
Gangtok	—	9.8	6.0	Pune	—	32.5	13.5
Goa	—	30.5	18.8	Raipur	—	29.5	11.5
Guwahati	—	23.4	11.0	Ranchi	—	25.2	9.4
Hubballi	—	33.0	14.0	Shillong	—	11.4	1.2
Hyderabad	—	32.1	17.1	Shimla	—	15.1	3.0
Imphal	—	21.1	6.7	Srinagar	—	7.2	-1.9
Jaipur	—	19.8	4.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.5	22.8
Kochi	—	31.0	23.6	Tiruchi	—	29.8	18.4
Kohima	—	20.0	4.2	Vijayawada	—	30.0	17.6
Kolkata	—	23.5	15.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.7	21.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.34	..96	56	... 128	...118	
Bengaluru	...2	..21	43	... 136	...148	
Chennai	.24	..34	34	... 103	88	
Delhi	.22	146	85	... 348	...374	
Hyderabad	.17	2	56	 82	79	
Kolkata	...5	..35	50	... 221	...142	
Lucknow	.15	..40	81	... 228	...193	
Mumbai	.90	249	60	... 339	...180	
Pune	..—	..—	.—	..... —	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..44	27	 94	...105	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 420 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Uncounted special ballots go missing in Perinthalmanna, found at Malappuram office

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

UDF candidate had a narrow victory over LDF's Mustafa in Perinthalmanna in the 2021 election

The drama over the UDF's narrow victory in the 2021 Assembly election in Perinthalmanna had its sequel on Monday when a box of uncounted special ballots kept in safe custody was found missing.

The box went missing from the Sub Treasury office at Perinthalmanna when officials opened the locker to collect it as per an High Court directive.

However, the missing box was found later at the office of the District Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies at Malappuram, triggering allegations by the candidates.

UDF candidate Najeeb Kanthapuram had a narrow victory of 38 votes over K.P. Mustafa of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the 2021 election. As many as 348 special postal votes had not been counted as the cover containing the ballots did not have the seal and signature of the polling official.

The election officials had declared those votes invalid, though the LDF counting agent challenged the decision.

Mr. Mustafa moved the court complaining about the missing box while Mr. Kanthapuram has alleged a conspiracy against him. Both sought a probe.

The High Court will consider the case on Tuesday.

Threat call to Nitin Gadkari will be investigated thoroughly: CM Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that the Karnataka government had taken the threat calls made to the office of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari from Hindalga prison in Belagavi very seriously and it would be thoroughly investigated.

Speaking to mediapersons at Hubballi airport on Monday, Mr. Bommai said: "As the call had been made from inside the prison, the person will be caught. However, what is important is the background of the person who made the call and who was behind the act."

A file photo of Hindalga prison in Belagavi from where the threat calls to the office of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari originated, on January 14.

The Maharashtra police have registered a case against an inmate of Hindalga prison on the charge of making threat calls to the office of Mr. Gadkari. The caller had claimed to be a member of gangster Dawood Ibrahim's gang and threatened to assassinate the Minister. He identified himself and gave a mobile number to call back, saying it was his number.

Three calls were made to the office of the Minister on Saturday.

Two persons killed on the spot during cockfights in Andhra Pradesh districts

The Hindu Bureau
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Two persons were killed on the spot after they were reportedly attacked by roosters, which had knives tied around their legs, during cockfights in two incidents in Eluru and Kakinada districts in the Godavari region on Sunday.

They deceased have been identified as Padma Rao (20) and Gande Suresh (43). The incidents were reported during cockfights organised as part of the Sankranti celebrations despite a ban on the event.

Nallajarla Circle Inspector K. Lakshma Reddy said Padma Rao was reportedly trying to tie the knives to the roosters. A rooster re-

Deadly incident: Cockfights being organised in NTR district as part of the Sankranti celebrations on Monday. There is a blanket ban on cockfights. G.N. RAO

portedly attacked him during the fight. He suffered a deep injury on his leg and died on the spot.

In Kakinada district, Gande Suresh, who had come to witness a cockfight, was injured after he was attacked by a rooster, which had knives tied to its legs. He too died on the spot. The Kakinada and Eluru police have registered the cases and investigation is on.

Tamer and spectator gored to death during jallikattu in Tiruchi village

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI/TIRUCHI

A 25-year-old spectator was gored to death by a bull at jallikattu event held at Periya Suriyur village in Tiruchi Monday. Sixty-two others were injured during the event.

The deceased, identified as M. Aravind from Pudukottai district, had accompanied the bull owner to watch the event., police sources said.

As many as 623 bulls were released one after the other through the 'vaadivaasal' during the course of the event which lasted nearly nine hours. District Collector M. Pradeep Kumar inaugurated the event around 7.30 a.m.

A bull charging at tamer at Periya Suriyur in Tiruchi district on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Police sources said Aravind sustained severe injuries after being gored at the bull collection point.

He was immediately rushed to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital at Tiruchi, but died while undergoing treatment in the afternoon.

The body was sent for autopsy. Among the injured, 51 were treated as out-patients at the event venue, while 11 others were referred to the hospital.

The local sources said 18 bull owners and nine tamers were among the injured during the course of the event.

Around 450 police personnel were deployed in and around Periya Suriyur in connection with the jallikattu.

The Collector said the event was organised as per protocol.

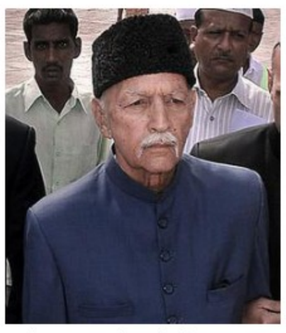
Medical teams examined every tamer and checked if they were in possession of double vaccination certificate, Mr. Pradeep Kumar said, adding that veterinary teams subjected every bull to an alcohol test.

Hyderabad's titular 8th Nizam Mukarram Jah Bahadur no more; funeral tomorrow

Serish Nanisetti
HYDERABAD

The last Nizam of Hyderabad Mukarram Jah Bahadur who passed away in Turkey on Saturday night will be laid to rest in the family's vault in the forecourt of Mecca Masjid. "The body is expected to arrive tomorrow in a chartered flight and will be brought to Chowmahalla Palace for people to offer their tributes. The funeral will take place on Wednesday," informed a family member.

Officials of the Nizam Trust supervised the preparation of the vault where other members of the Nizam's family who ruled



Mukarram Jah Bahadur. FILE PHOTO

Hyderabad from 1724 are buried.

Mukarram Jah, or as he was titled Nawab Mir Barket Ali Khan Walashan Mukarram Jah Bahadur, was linked to two of the most well-known dynasties in the Muslim world. His mother Durrushehvar was the only daughter of Abdul Majid, last Caliph of Islam who was sent into exile by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk who abolished the Caliphate. His father was Azam Jah, the eldest son of Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan, whose kingdom was merged with India on September 18, 1948.

Mukarram Jah became Nizam VIII after the inauguration ceremony on April 6, 1967 much after the dominion was merged with India and only a few scattered properties were left in the family with the pulls and pressures coming from the large family, relatives, and retinue of servants.

Only weeks earlier, his grandfather Nizam Osman Ali Khan had died in February 1967. At his passing, the then Andhra Pradesh government noted: "His exalted highness created Nizam's Charitable Trust with a corpus of ₹4,90,00,000 for relief of the poor..."

While this was one of the trusts aimed at charity, the Nizam had created about 54 trusts, including a 'Grandson's Pocket Money Trust' to manage the finances and properties of the wealth accumulated over generations. Another was the Nizam's Jewellery Trust which had 107 items, including a ripe strawberry-sized Jacob's diamond among other fabulous baubles. In 1972, the Nizam's family offered to sell 173 while keeping 24 items. The long-drawn litigation over ownership, right to sell abroad, antiquities laws, and the value ensured that the jewels final value was settled at ₹218 crore.

The cheques that were handed over to Ali Pasha and Muhammad Abdul Hadi, the secretary of Nizam Jewellery Trust on January 11, 1996 did not end the litigation. The jewels are now parked in the vaults of Reserve Bank of India and exhibited occasionally.

He will be laid to rest on Wednesday with full state honours.

Four youngsters die after drowning in Kotipally reservoir

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

In a tragic incident, four youngsters died on Monday after drowning in the Kotipally water project in Vikarabad district where they had gone for swimming. All the persons were aged between 22 to 25 years and were related.

The deceased have been identified as Rajesh, Venkatesh, Lokesh and Jagadish and another relative who accompanied them to the reservoir, Kalyan, survived.

According to the police, the five youth, natives of Manneguda, had gone to the reservoir for swimming and four of them could not make it to the shore and drowned. The families of all the four persons helplessly witnessed the accident, Inspector of Dharur Police Station Appaiah said.

Only survivor speaks

Mr. Kalyan, the only survivor of the accident, while speaking to *The Hindu* said that they reached in Vikarabad on January 12 for Sankranthi celebration.

On Monday, at around 12:30 p.m. he along with his relatives went into the reservoir for swimming, after spending two hours in the water all of them decided to get out the water, however, four of them were unable to reach the shores and started drowning.

Kalyan quickly got out of the water but noticed the others were struggling, then he went back in the water and tried to grab Rajesh's hand but failed to rescue him.

Mr. Kalyan then went around and asked for help and reached out to the boating personnel, who searched for the youngsters but were unable to find them.

The police were then informed of the matter after which a search and rescue operation was launched. After some time, the bodies of all the 4 persons were found and were shifted to the area hospital for post mortem.

On Monday evening, the bodies were handed over to the families.

Leading from front

India must amplify views of the Global South as president of the G20 summit

The Government's summit for developing nations, called the "Voice of the Global South Summit", as its first big leadership-level G20 event, is an extremely important signal. It is also a departure from New Delhi's looking towards the "high-table" of global leadership, involving its relationship with the UNSC P5 and G-7 (the most developed economies), to focusing on a more just view of the world and how the developing world is being affected by global inequities. In his opening remarks at the virtual summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi explained the reasons for the shift: how "challenges of the COVID pandemic, rising prices of fuel, fertilizer and foodgrains, and increasing geopolitical tensions have impacted our development efforts". External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar too spoke of India's need to envision a common future with the Global South and acknowledge India's "common past" with the Global South, many of whom have suffered colonialism. Over 10 different sessions, India and representatives of 125 countries, of the 134 that make up the G-77, agreed that the key issues include the fragmentation of the international landscape, shortages in grain exports, oil and gas, and fertilizer as a result of the Ukraine war, and terrorism. Of note was Mr. Modi's push for "human centred" globalisation countering the "first world's" view of expediting climate change goals at the cost of development, ensuring immigration and work mobility for skilled populations of the global south, and resilient renewable energy access. The summit appears to mark a reset in India's foreign policy outlook in its year as G20 president: one which has made the Government reclaim the true meaning of non-alignment, in the wake of the Ukraine war where it refused to take sides. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi's visit to Cuba as it took over G77 chairpersonship (a grouping India has shunned) and the invitation to the President of Egypt, a NAM co-founder, as Republic Day chief guest were significant too.

Of note were some of the summit's exclusions: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Of note too was the inclusion of Myanmar, whose junta regime has not been recognised but with which India has chosen to forge closer ties. It is hoped that the collective South-South understanding of global issues will lead to a more inclusive meeting at the summit level, particularly with reference to South Asian and the subcontinent's regional problems. It is also of note that the grouping did not release a common or joint statement, and much of the narrative on outcomes is built on what Mr. Modi and Mr. Jaishankar said. For India to be heard as the 'Voice of the Global South at the G20', it must reflect on the aspirations of the other nations and amplify them, as a true leader of the developing world at the G20 summit later this year.

Social equaliser

While promoting digital payments, care is needed to guard against cyber threats

The Union Cabinet's recent decision to earmark ₹2,600 crore for providing banks with an incentive to promote digital payments has focused attention on India's welcome push to broaden and deepen alternatives to the most widely accepted method of payment worldwide, cash. The Reserve Bank of India's 'Payments Vision 2025' document observes that 'payment systems foster economic development and financial stability' while supporting financial inclusion. There can be no two views that the rapid and widespread adoption of digital payment methods, coupled with steps to bring more people into the banking system's fold, has significantly helped cut the reliance on cash for low-value transactions, especially in metros and cities. At the heart of this payments revolution has been the National Payments Corporation of India and its Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The UPI's function as a lynchpin transaction enabler has been key in undergirding this transformation. In December 2022, the total monthly volume of UPI-facilitated transactions aggregated almost 783 crore with the value exceeding ₹12.8 lakh crore. While this was a 71% jump in volume and a 55% increase in value from a year earlier, the UPI volume last month was close to 54 times the transactions in December 2017, and a staggering 98.6-fold of the value seen five years earlier.

The adoption of digital payment methods, while accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has also been enabled by the widening number of banks which have backed the UPI system, as well as the indigenous RuPay credit and debit cards. A welter of private financial technology or fintech firms that offer tailor-made digital applications, and big technology and social media companies that have added payments with a view to enhancing stickiness with their core offerings have also been major enablers. The banking sector, however, has been at a relative disadvantage in leveraging the payments ecosystem for its core business growth as the spending on infrastructure to support and secure such payments has been disproportionately higher than for fintech and big tech rivals. The Government's new incentive aims to level the field by offering payments in lieu of the commissions foregone by lenders in waiving the merchant discount rate they would otherwise have levied. Still, challenges abound. Policymakers need to urgently ring-fence the wealth of individual spending data being generated and constantly enhance security to safeguard the payments system from cyberthreats.

This is an 'address' of great constitutional importance

P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, in the customary Governor's address to Members of the Tamil Nadu Assembly (on January 9, the first session for 2023), skipped an important and politically significant paragraph, which has stirred up a hornet's nest of controversy in the State.

The paragraph in question referred to the Dravidian model of governance which has great political and cultural significance especially in Tamil Nadu. The present Governor is known to have no emotional link with the concept of a Dravidian model of governance or politics or its rich cultural past (evident in his speeches and observations), which is understandable. The issue here is not one of the Governor's personal likes or dislikes of a particular political ideology or a cultural tradition, but whether the constitutional authority can deviate from well-established and mandatory constitutional practices while performing a constitutional function.

It is a complete address

Article 176 of the Constitution requires the Governor to mandatorily address the Members of legislature at the commencement of the first session of each year and to inform them of the causes of its summons. Clause two says that the legislature will discuss the matters referred to in such an address. The "address" here means the complete address and not a truncated or garbled version. Therefore, what the Governor reads before the legislators is a complete address whose entire contents are to be mandatorily discussed by the legislators in the House.

Here, the Constitution gives a specific direction to the House to find time to discuss the contents of the Governor's address. It is of special significance that the Constitution nowhere else says that the legislature must make rules for the allotment of time to discuss a particular matter other than the address by the Governor under Article 176. This underscores the importance the Constitution attaches to such an address by the Governor.

It will become more clear when we consider Article 175 which says that the Governor may address the legislature and for that purpose require the attendance of the members. The Governor's address under Article 175 is not a mandatory address unlike under Article 176. Article 175 does not speak about any discussion of the content of such an address; but Article 176 requires a discussion on the matters contained in the Governor's address. The reason behind the Constitution making such a distinction in two addresses by the same constitutional authority, namely the Governor, to the same Members of the legislature, is that the address under Article 176 contains the policies and programmes of the elected government of the State which is accountable to the legislature. Executive accountability to the elected representatives of the people is the essence of parliamentary democracy.

> The mandatory address the Governor of a State makes under Article 176 is about only the policies and the programmes of the elected government, so wilfully not reading certain portions goes against the mandate of the said Article

So, through the address which the Governor is mandated to give at the commencement of the first session of each year, the government informs the legislature of its major legislative programmes for that year, its achievements in the previous year, and a clear outline of its developmental programmes for the future. These programmes and policies of the government are conveyed to the legislature through the Governor. Thus, the address under Article 176 assumes great importance.

Content by the government

When the Constitution has accorded such importance to this address, can the Governor ignore it and skip certain paragraphs of the address or add anything of his own? Skipping paragraphs of the address would simply mean that the Governor does not approve or agree with those ideas. Anyone who is familiar with the constitutional system in India knows that the address the Governor gives under Article 176 is the address prepared by the government. It does not contain any of the personal views of the Governor but only the policies and the programmes of the elected government. The government alone is responsible for the content of the address and not the Governor. The Governor cannot change a word on his own. So, by wilfully not reading certain portions of the address the Governor has gone against the mandate of Article 176. It is another matter if the Governor is not able to read the whole speech because of a ruckus created by Members of the Assembly. But the Governor cannot wilfully skip paragraphs of the address because the Constitution does not permit him to disagree with the matters contained in the address or interpose his own views therein.

The actions by Governors in some of the Opposition-ruled States have often come under critical scrutiny. Sitting on a Bill passed by the Assembly without exercising any of the options given by the Constitution, and thus frustrating the entire legislative exercise, is clearly against the mandate of the Constitution. The Constitution does not give the Governor the option to sit on a Bill passed by the Assembly. But the Governors seem to assume that since it does not lay down any time frame for assent to a Bill they can sit on it without exercising any of the options contained in Article 200. This is a gross misreading of the constitutional provision. Article 200 requires the Governor to either give assent or withhold assent or send the Bill back to the Assembly for reconsideration, in which case if the Assembly passes it again in the same form without any change the Governor has to give assent to it. He can also send the Bill for the consideration of the President in some rare cases. Thus, Article 200 clearly shows that the Governor cannot sit on a Bill and thus frustrate the legislative exercise done by the Assembly. In Britain it is unconstitutional for the King to withhold assent to a Bill passed by Parliament.

An open challenge now

All these problems arise now because of an inexplicable effort to question and challenge long-established constitutional positions. Governors have suddenly become pro active and have begun to openly challenge and criticise Chief Ministers and State governments. Some Governors are even holding press conferences to attack Chief Ministers. Gubernatorial displeasure is being openly expressed. Bills pile up in Raj Bhavans without any decision being taken. From *Shamsher Singh* (1974) to *Nabam Rebia* (2016), the Supreme Court has consistently held that Governors can act only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and cannot exercise any executive powers independently ignoring the elected government. In the Nabam Rebia case, the Court has said "... such a nominee, cannot have an overriding authority, over the representatives of the people, who constitute the House or Houses of the State Legislature (on being duly elected from their respective constituencies) and/or even the executive Government functioning under the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as the head."

B.R. Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly: "If the Constitution remains in principle the same, as we intend that it should be, that the Governor should be a purely constitutional Governor, with no power of interference in the administration of the province, ..."

The Supreme Court had in *Shamsher Singh* said, "The Constitution does not aim at providing a parallel administration within the State by allowing the Governor to go against the advice of the Council of Ministers."

These are voices of wisdom which should be heeded to if we want to preserve the integrity of the system. If constitutional authorities wilfully cross the line and over strain the system, democracy will be in peril.

Time to streamline the Provident Fund pension scheme

T. Ramakrishnan

For around 70 lakh pensioners, the end to the agonising wait for higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995, appears to be no where in sight even though it has been over two months since the Supreme Court of India reiterated, as a matter of principle, its approval of the idea of higher pension. A circular issued in late December by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the administering body for the EPS, has only aggravated the sense of pain pensioners experience. Though considered a sequel to the Court's verdict where the EPFO was asked to implement the Court's directions of October 2016 too, the circular covers only a segment of pensioners – that too subject to certain conditions.

It all began in early 2005 when a section of Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation staff, on the eve of their retirement, demanded higher pension. As their employer had made the 12% mandatory contributions on their actual pay, which exceeded the statutory ceiling, they would be entitled to the benefit of the deposit of 8.33% of their actual salary in the Pension Fund. But the EPFO was not impressed as the employees along with their employer did not exercise their option within the cut-off date. Eventually, the matter went to the Supreme Court.

In October 2016, the top court rejected the EPFO's notion of a cutoff date and held that the cut-off date, as in the EPS rules, was meant to calculate the pensionable salary only. An estimate shows that 24,672 pensioners got the benefit of higher pension. Meanwhile, effective from September 1, 2014, the Centre made certain changes to the EPS which dealt with limiting the scheme's applicability to those earning a monthly pensionable salary up to ₹15,000; the new basis of determination for the pensionable salary and requirement of employees and employers to give a fresh option, within six months and extendable by another six months, on contributions that exceeded the statutory ceiling (now ₹15,000) After three High Courts quashed the amendments, the matter went to the Supreme Court again.

> There needs to be adequate budgetary support to the EPFO so that questions over the sustainability of the enhanced pension scheme do not arise

While broadly upholding the modified scheme, the Court, in November 2022, reinforced its rejection of the theory of a cutoff date for giving the option, and asked the EPFO to grant four months to those who were members as on September 1, 2014, to exercise the option. Also, the retirement fund body was to execute the October 2016 verdict in eight weeks. Hence the December circular.

Imposing conditions

This circular has disturbed pensioners who had, after the November 2022 verdict, expected "manna from heaven". But, the circular, citing the 2016 ruling, has sought to narrow the scope of coverage of beneficiaries with the imposition of three conditions: payment of contributions on higher or actual wages; exercise of joint option while in service, and refusal by the EPFO to allow higher pension. A section of pensioners contends that as the authorities did not allow such persons, while in service, to furnish their option for about 12 years (beginning from December 2004), the question of exercising the option in the period does not arise – which is why they have been left out. Besides, retirees post-2014 – those who are 58 years after September 1, 2014 – are clueless about their plight. Another circular is likely to be issued by the EPFO to clear the air.

The main reason behind the reluctance of the PF authorities to allow a higher pension is the apprehension over the sustainability of the pension fund and the scenario of those receiving lower pension having to cross-subsidise pension payouts for those getting or likely to get a higher pension. This alongwith factors such as rising actuarial shortfall, lower rate of returns and increasing longevity of pensioners may lead to the situation of pension payouts outstripping receipts. This would, according to the EPFO, go against social security.

No clarity

But what the authorities should keep in mind is that much of the confusion among pensioners could have been avoided had they been proactive in sharing information or explaining the position to those concerned. For about two months after the November ruling, the EPFO was silent over the course of action. And, there is still no clarity even after the December circular.

On the policy front, the Government and the EPFO should increase the minimum monthly pension of ₹3,000 against the existing ₹1,000. The hike in pension would address, to a large extent, the grievances of pensioners who were in the lower wage bracket. Besides, the EPFO can give a one-time opportunity to all those in the higher wage group who retired since December 2004 without exercising the option. To make all these suggestions a reality, the Government should substantially increase its financial support. Also, the Code on Social Security, 2020, when it gets implemented, can have a scheme for those youngsters who have got jobs after September 2014 who have been left out of the EPS on account of their higher wages. All these measures would only establish that the Government and the EPFO are sincere about providing social security.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No details on Joshimath

The gradual land subsidence in Joshimath is surely an issue about the safety of its residents. Keeping the media and the people in the dark on an issue of great significance is a regressive step (Page 1, "Don't share details of Joshimath survey with the media: NDMA", January 15). The plight of the people of Joshimath can be linked to lopsided development in the fragile Himalayan region.

There have been a number of warning signs about the need to stop indiscriminate human interventions in vulnerable land zones. A holistic review of all the developmental projects in the entire Himalayan region needs to be urgently undertaken by the Government.

G. Ramasubramanyam,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

The directive is not going to help clear the confusion. Instead, it will only create an information void, which will be, of course, filled with myths and misinformation in due course. The Government's role is to address the issues appropriately and in a timely manner. A blanket ban on crucial data from authentic sources and experts is never going to be a part of the solution.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The strange decree is a sign of how some agencies still believe in working in an opaque manner and trying to 'guard' crucial information that ought to be in the public domain. At a time when residents of the holy Himalayan town are the victims of rampant and lopsided development, the National Disaster Management Authority should be more forthcoming on what is happening in Joshimath.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

A gathering storm

The 'battle' between the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, seems to have its roots in a list of issues that irk the Governor for a cornucopia of reasons. The perception is that ways and means are being explored to unseat the present DMK government. A strong breeze should not become a gale.

Mani Natarajan,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In the news report titled "Cong. govt. keeps poll promise, decides to restore old pension scheme in H.P." (January 14, 2023, some editions), there was a reference to *a 3% increase in GST* on diesel. It should have been an increase in the Value Added Tax on diesel by ₹3 per litre.

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Balance fiscal consolidation with growth

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is former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

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is Chief Policy Advisor, EY India, and former Director, Madras School of Economics. Views are personal

As the number of COVID-19 cases subsided, 2022-23 was expected to be a normal year. However, this hope was shattered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The supply of critical imports was disrupted and, as a consequence, the prices of such imports increased sharply, derailing many economies. Growth slowed down, and India was affected too. While India's performance was relatively better than many other countries, the return to normalcy has been delayed. Even at the currently projected growth rate, India's GDP at the end of the present fiscal year will only be 8.57% higher than its level in 2019-20, giving an average of 2.86% for three years. India needs to move on to a high growth path beginning 2023-24. In this context, what should be the focus of the upcoming Budget to achieve steady, high growth with reasonable price stability?

Growth performance

In 2022-23, real Gross Value Added (GVA) is estimated to grow by 6.7%. Its sectoral decomposition indicates that every output sector has turned positive as compared to the corresponding magnitudes in the pre-COVID-19 year of 2019-20. In other words, the 2023-24 Budget would pertain to the first normalised economy after the pandemic shock. The expectation is that nominal GDP in 2023-24 may be close to ₹300 lakh crore. This is based on applying a nominal growth of about 11-11.5%, which implies the assumption of a real growth in the range of 6-6.5% and a deflator-based inflation in the range of 4.5-5%. It may be noted that real growth in the second half of 2022-23 is only 5.5% as per the advance estimates.

The policy response to the COVID-19 shock, which affected 2020-21, was a sharp increase in the Centre's fiscal deficit to 9.2% of the GDP. This was more than three times the original Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) norm of 3%. In the two succeeding years, fiscal deficit could be reduced to 6.7% and 6.4%, respectively. With 2023-24 being the first genuine post COVID-19 normal year, it would be best to spell out a convincing path towards the prescribed fiscal deficit ratio of 3%. This calls for a total adjustment of 3.4 percentage points of GDP. Given this task, a reduction of at least 0.7 percentage points may be targeted for 2023-24.

There is, however, a need to recognise the challenges to India's growth prospects in view of the global economic slowdown. Multilateral institutions have projected global growth prospects and India's growth prospects for 2023-24. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has projected a growth rate of 2.2% for the global economy in 2023 and 5.7% for India in 2023-24. The International Monetary Fund, on the other hand, has projected global growth at 2.7% and India's growth at 6.1%. India may be able to achieve a growth in the range of 6-6.5% in 2023-24, provided significant policy support is given to growth.

Saving-investment balance

The need for correction in the government's fiscal deficit primarily arises because of the relative profile of savings and investment as a proportion of GDP. Financial savings along with net inflow of foreign capital provide the extent of surplus available for the potential net deficit sectors in the economy, which consists of the public sector (government and non-government) and the private sector. Financial savings in the household sector had averaged 7.9% of GDP from 2017-18 to 2019-20 before it increased inordinately to 11.6% in 2020-21 due to an upsurge in the precautionary motive in the COVID-19 year.

If we target a reduction of 0.7% point in fiscal deficit in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23, the resultant fiscal deficit of 5.7% of GDP would imply availability of investible resources of 1.1% of GDP for both the private corporate sector and the non-government public sector. This can be financed by a household sector financial saving of about 8% of GDP and net inflow of foreign capital of 2.3% of the GDP assuming that States are allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5% of the GDP in 2023-24. This balancing would not put any additional pressure on interest rates and would be ideal for sustaining a robust medium-term growth with price stability. Bringing down fiscal deficit and charting out a glide path are essential for maintaining price stability. The pressure on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to expand reserve money will come down.

Fiscal prospects

We expect that growth in the Centre's Gross Tax Revenues (GTR) in 2023-24 would be less than that in 2022-23. This is because of an expected fall in both real GDP growth and deflator-based inflation. Assuming a nominal growth of about 11.5% and a buoyancy of 1 in 2023-24, the Centre's GTR may be estimated at ₹34.8 lakh crore while its net tax revenue would amount to ₹24.4 lakh crore. Together with non-tax revenues and non-debt capital receipts, total resources available to the Central government would be nearly ₹28.3 lakh crore. If a fiscal deficit of 5.7% of GDP is added, total expenditure may have to be limited to ₹45.7 lakh crore. This is only about 6.3% higher than the estimated total expenditure for 2022-23.

Fiscal support to growth would call for continuing emphasis on capital expenditure. A careful calibration would be required for limiting revenue expenditure growth in order to retain space for capital expenditure to grow adequately with a view to supporting growth.

A careful calibration would be required for limiting revenue expenditure growth in order to retain space for capital expenditure to grow adequately

The Congress's Kerala problem

The delay in organising the party is hindering political campaigns

STATE OF PLAY

S. Anandan
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Showing a sense of urgency in carrying out a campaign isn't one of the strong points of the Congress in Kerala these days. The sole exceptions to this trait are the party's meticulous work in the Thrikkakara byelection and, more recently, its sustained solidarity with the protest against the SilverLine semi high-speed railway. So, it did not surprise anyone when, after a day's euphoria, the party chose to sidestep the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) clean chit to former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and senior Congress leaders in the sexual harassment complaint filed by the prime accused in the solar investment fraud case. The case had shaken the foundations of the Chandy-led United Democratic Front (UDF). It was leveraged by the Left, which was in the Opposition, to mobilise public opinion against the Congress and to subsequently wrest power in 2016. Given that the road to victory was long and arduous, many leaders feel that the party could have used the win to revitalise the flagging spirits of its cadres and to win back disenchanted sympathisers.

That it has not happened points to some niggles in the party organisation. While the Congress in Kerala is now bereft of the 'groupism' that sullied its image in public for a long time, new leadership equations in the party have thrown up fresh challenges. Fighting illness, Mr. Chandy himself is steering clear of public glare. His reaction to the CBI's report was by and large limited to a social media post.

Many senior leaders have taken a back seat ever since K. Sudhakaran was made the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president and V.D. Satheesan promoted as the Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly.

Poor health is troubling Mr. Sudhakaran, making him unavailable for many programmes. And when he does show up, his gaffes hog the headlines, often embarrassing his party or its allies. Mr. Satheesan has been embroiled in a tussle with Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram, after Mr. Tharoor embarked on an unusual Kerala tour, to the consternation of the party unit in the State, to bolster ties with key allies such as the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) besides prominent social groups. Mr. Tharoor's 'popularity' with the IUML and the 'affection' he has earned from caste and community organisations have made senior leaders restive, and reasonably so. Their main grouse is that he is not focusing much on his constituency. His stance on the protests against the Adani Port at Vizhinjam – widely seen as antithetical to his party's stance – has called into question his willingness to toe the party line and join hands with the Congress in its programmes.

Mr. Tharoor's insouciance hasn't made things better. His recent jibe, "one Nair cannot stomach the wellbeing of another Nair", presumably targeting another senior leader form the community, at a meeting of the Nair Service Community (NSS), was lapped up by the media. The NSS, meanwhile, deftly used this as a stick to beat 'ungrateful' leaders with. Mr. Tharoor has, however, resumed his solitary tour unmindful of the controversies surrounding it, and the party central leadership has urged everyone to refrain from making public remarks.

Amidst all this, the Congress is understood to have begun the groundwork for the 2024 general elections by following its 'Vision-2024' roadmap. It has started booth-level work, aimed at adding people to the voters' list; and district office bearers and sitting MPs have been tasked with carrying out the legwork for the polls in all Assembly and parliamentary constituencies.

But it is the delay in reorganising the party in Kerala that is standing in the Congress's way in planning and successfully carrying forward political campaigns. While the party central leadership remains steadfastly reluctant to take a call on whether or not to retain Mr. Sudhakaran as KPCC president, the State unit isn't showing any hurry to carry out the much-delayed reshuffle either. At last, committees have now been constituted to select booth, mandalam and block-level office-bearers in consultation with senior leaders. The latest deadline to complete the reorganisation process is March. Unless that happens, the party cannot hope to close ranks and be capable of undertaking impactful campaigns.

Nepal has too many air crash deaths relative to its air traffic

The country has a mountainous terrain, which is the main cause of fatalities, and a poor accident investigation record

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

At least 69 of the 72 passengers onboard Yeti Airlines flight 691 died when the plane crashed in Nepal on Sunday. This is the country's third deadliest aviation disaster in the last three decades. The airplane was flying from Kathmandu, the capital, to Pokhara, a famous tourist destination, and crashed near Pokhara international airport.

In the last three decades, 52 flights have crashed in Nepal. The country ranks 33 out of the 207 countries ordered based on the number of plane crashes between 1990 and 2023 (**Chart 1**). With 1,578 plane crashes, the U.S. leads the list, followed by Russia (464) and Canada (369). India ranks 13, with 99 crashes in the period.

The number of deaths due to airplane crashes is notoriously high in the mountainous country. If we include the crash on Sunday, 720 lives have been lost in such incidents in Nepal between 1990 and 2023 (**Chart 2**). Nepal ranks 12 out of the 207 countries ordered based on fatalities in the same period. The U.S. leads the list with 5,445 deaths, followed by Russia (2,730) and Indonesia (2,171). India ranks 7, with 1,020 deaths in the period.

The U.S. leads both the number of plane crashes and fatalities by a wide margin because air traffic in the country is far higher than in other countries. A comparison between air traffic and crash-related fatalities is necessary to understand whether deaths in Nepal are disproportionately higher than its air traffic.

Chart 3 depicts the number of fatalities in air crashes against departures by air carriers registered in a country between 1990 and 2023. For instance, air carriers registered in the U.S. recorded 324 million departures in the period, the highest among all countries by a wide margin. This was followed by Chinese carriers – 57 million. These figures are plotted in the horizontal axis of **Chart 3.** The farther to the right a dot (representing a country), the more the number of departures. The number of departures by air carriers registered in a country is a good proxy measure for air traffic in the nation.

Fatalities in plane crashes are plotted in the vertical axis of Chart 3. The higher a dot on the chart, the more the number of fatalities. Nepal belongs to a set of countries where air traffic is relatively low but fatalities are relatively high. Other countries in this lot include Nigeria, Pakistan, Angola and Sri Lanka. In the period considered in Nepal, the number of departures was 0.9 million, while fatalities were 720. In comparison, over Kuwait, there were only three such fatalities in the period considered, while departures were 0.85 million. In 59 countries, the number of departures was higher than in Nepal, but the number of fatalities was lower. For instance, Irish carriers recorded 12 million departures with just 10 fatalities.

Yeti Airlines recorded six air crashes in the last three decades with 99 fatalities. Tara Air, its subsidiary, also recorded six incidents with 67 fatalities. Together, they account for the highest number of crashes and fatalities by any Nepali carrier (**Chart 4**).

While the reasons for individual accidents vary, "most aviation accidents in Nepal between 1952-2022 were caused by planes flying into mountains hidden in clouds, known as Controlled Flight into Terrain with fatalities as high as 92%," writes Kunda Dixit in *Nepali Times*. Also, in the International Civil Aviation Organization's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme conducted between 2016 and 2018, Nepal scored only 21.6% on the accident investigation parameter, which is much lower than the global average of 54.2%. A poor record in accident investigation shows that the feedback mechanism is broken, making it difficult to learn from mistakes.

Dangerous skies

The data for charts 1, 2, 3 and 4 were sourced from the Aviation Safety Network. The data for departures by registered carriers used in chart 3 were sourced from the World Bank. The data for chart 5 were sourced from ICAO

Black Sunday: Rescuers pull the body of a victim who died in a Yeti Airlines plane crash in Pokhara on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Chart 1 | The chart orders countries based on the number of plane crashes between 1990 and 2023

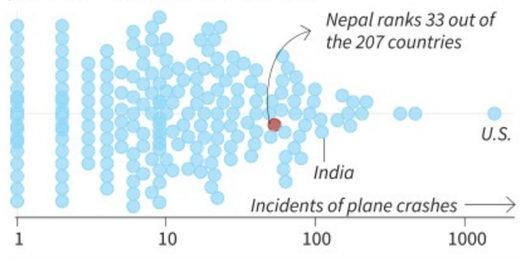


Chart 2 | The chart orders countries based on fatalities related to plane crashes between 1990 and 2023

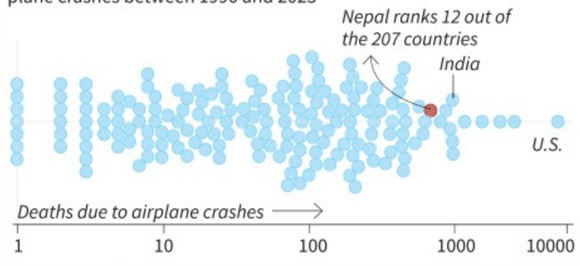


Chart 3 | The chart depicts the number of fatalities in air crashes against departures by air carriers registered in a country between 1990 and 2023

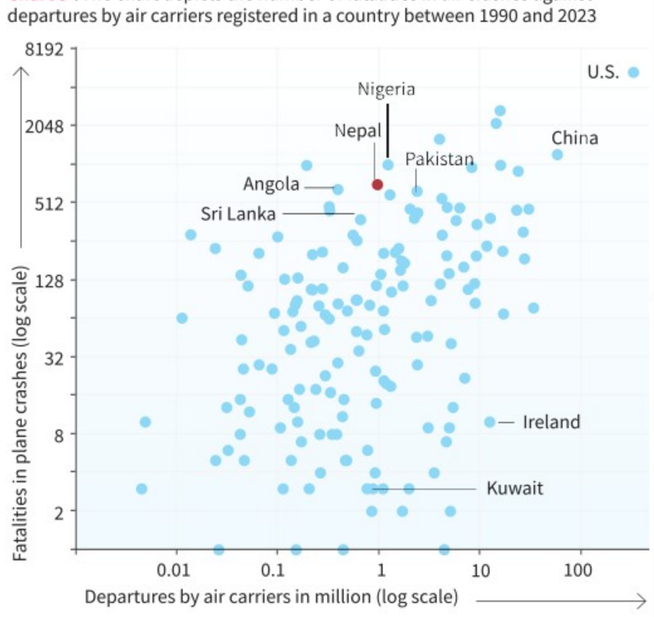


Chart 4 | The number of air crashes and fatalities recorded by Nepali airlines in the last three decades

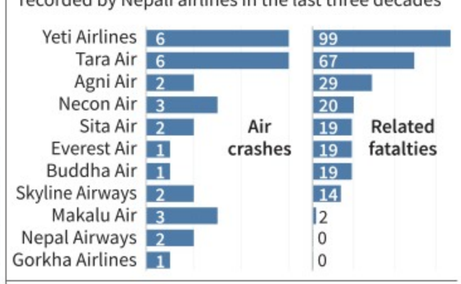
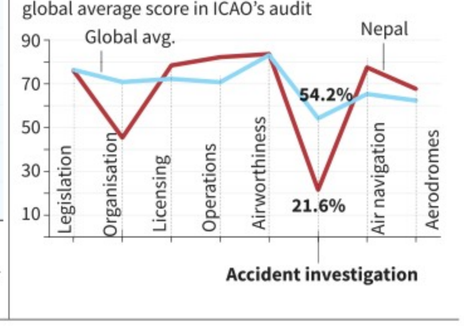


Chart 5 | The chart shows Nepal's score and the global average score in ICAO's audit



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 17, 1973

A bill of rights for patients

New York (Jan. 16): An individual's right to choose death by rejecting medical therapy and a patient's right to obtain a full explanation of his medical condition in clear, concise terms were affirmed in a 12-point "bill of rights" issued by the nation's leading Hospital Association recently. The American Hospital Association, which has its headquarters in Chicago, approved the bill of rights as a national policy statement after a three-year study by its board of trustees and four consumer representatives. The 12-point declaration says: A patient has the right: To respectful care. To obtain from his physician complete current information concerning his diagnosis, treatment and prognosis in terms the patient can be reasonably expected to understand. To receive from his physician information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure and/or treatment, including the specific procedure, the risks and probable duration of incapacitation. To refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law, and to be informed of the medical consequences of his action. To every consideration of his privacy concerning his own medical-care programmes. Those not directly involved in his care must have the permission of the patient to be present. To expect that all communications and records pertaining to his care should be treated as confidential. To expect that within its capacity a hospital must make reasonable response to the request of a patient for services. To obtain information as to any relationship of his hospital to other health-care and educational institutions insofar as his care is concerned. To be advised if the hospital proposes to engage in or perform human experimentation affecting his care or treatment. The patient has the right to refuse to participate in such research projects.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 17, 1923

Indian situation

London, Jan. 16: An Editorial article in this morning's "Times" on the Indian Parliament says that it is satisfactory to feel that the general atmosphere in India, despite the resolutions passed by the Congress, is calmer and happier than it has been for some time. The paper points out that the crop prospects are good, rade reviving, exchange improved and cost of living falling. The firm, just enforcement of the law has silenced the more virulent disturbers of the peace.

From Page One

Exports drop by 12.2% in a year on slow demand

"We believe the current account deficit has likely peaked in the second quarter of 2022-23, and foresee a moderation to $25-29 billion each in the subsequent two quarters," Ms. Nayar reckoned.

Despite a dip in two months, merchandise exports in the first nine months of 2022-23 are still 9.1% higher than a year ago at $332.76 billion. Goods imports, on the other hand, are up 25% at $551.7 billion.

Shipments from as many as 19 of 30 major exporting sectors shrank in December, including cotton yarn and handlooms (-40.4%), handicrafts (-36.9%), petroleum products (-26.9%), plastic and linoleum (-26.23%), gems and jewellery (-15.2%).

Engineering goods exports, the mainstay of India's exports in recent years, dropped nearly 12% from $10.3 billion a year ago to little over $9 billion in December 2022. Overall engineering exports are down 3% so far in 2022-23 following six consecutive months of contraction.

Readymade garments

Exports from the employment-intensive readymade garments (RMG) sectors grew a mere 1.02% in December and the Ministry attributed the woes of the textiles sector, especially cotton yarn 'to the continuous price rise of raw materials throughout 2022'. "Exports of Indian textile apparels and RMG textiles got a major hit due to recessionary trend in major economies," it said.

"Given the cumulative growth until December 2022 and the indicators of the slowdown in global economic activity, there is cautious optimism on international trade in the last quarter of the current financial year," the Ministry said.

Nepal plane crash: black box recovered from site

The CVR records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit, such as conversations between the pilots, and engine noises.

According to Kathmandu airport officials, the boxes were recovered from the site of the accident, a day after Yeti Airlines' 9N-ANC ATR-72 aircraft crashed on the bank of the Seti river between the old airport and the new airport minutes before landing. The boxes were handed over to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), Sudarshan Bartaula, a spokesperson of the Yeti Airlines, said.

Meanwhile, rescue workers recovered one more body on Monday. So far, 69 bodies have been recovered. Rescuers struggled to recover the remaining three bodies from the crash site due to the difficult terrain. "It's very difficult to recover the bodies from the 300 metres deep gorge which is very narrow as well. We have been using all available equipment to make the mission successful," Tek Bahadur K.C., chief district officer of Kaski, was quoted as saying by the *Kathmandu Post*. The operation will resume on Tuesday to recover the bodies, he said.

Indians identified

The five Indians, all reportedly from Uttar Pradesh, have been identified as Abhisekh Kushwaha, 25, Bishal Sharma, 22, Anil Kumar Rajbhar, 27, Sonu Jaiswal, 35, and Sanjaya Jaiswal. Of them, four were planning to participate in paragliding activities in the tourist hub of Pokhara, said a local resident, who travelled with them to Nepal.

A medical team has been airlifted from the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu. In a statement, the Yeti Airlines said that a Nepali Army helicopter has been in Pokhara to airlift bodies of the foreign nationals, crew members and of those whose identity has not been established, to Kathmandu for forensic examination to establish their identities. As the accident site lies in a deep gorge of Seti river, it was very difficult for search operations, the Army sources said.

'Everything was fine'

The plane commanded by Captain Kamal K.C., an instructor pilot, made the first contact with the Pokhara control tower from nearly 110 kilometres away. "The weather was clear. We allocated Runway 30 which is the eastern end. Everything was fine," Anup Joshi, spokesperson for Pokhara International Airport, was quoted as saying by the *Kathmandu Post*. He added that no problems had been reported.

The flight captain later asked for permission to switch to Runway 12, which is the western end. "We were not sure why. Permission was granted, and accordingly, the aircraft started its descent," said Joshi, who is also a senior air traffic controller. "At 10:32 a.m., the plane took off from Kathmandu. It was scheduled to land at Pokhara at 10:58 a.m. Was in continuous contact with Pokhara Tower. The landing clearance of that plane had also been obtained. The weather was also fine. Everything was fine then how the accident happened is a matter of investigation," Premnath Thakur, General Manager, Tribhuvan International Airport, said. "A high-level investigation team has been formed. Any conclusion can be drawn by checking its voice recorder and other circumstances," he added. The team will submit its report within 45 days.

Flight tracking website FlightRadar24 claimed that the crashed aircraft was 15 years old and equipped with an 'old transponder with unreliable data'.

According to Nepal's civil aviation body, 914 people have died in air crashes in the country since the first disaster was recorded in August 1955. The tragedy in Pokhara on Sunday is the 104th crash in Nepali skies and the third biggest in terms of casualties.

Rijiju seeks govt. nominees in court collegiums, writes to CJI

In a letter, Law Minister seeks formation of a search-and-evaluation panel, which will have govt. representatives, to shortlist and suggest names to collegiums for judgeships in constitutional courts; Jairam Ramesh calls move 'poison pill for judiciary'

Sandeep Phukan
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

In a clear indication that the Narendra Modi government is determined to restructure the collegium system of appointments to the higher judiciary, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud to suggest a nominee of the Union government in the Supreme Court Collegium and a State representative in each of the High Court collegiums.

The four-page letter has raised a long list of complaints and sought the formation of a search-and-evaluation committee, which will have government representatives, to suggest names to the collegiums for appointment as judges in constitutional courts.

The letter is a fresh salvo by the Law Minister after recent statements by the Vice-President and the Lok Sabha Speaker against the collegium system. The letter coincides with the fact that Collegium recommendations for appointment of five Supreme Court judges lie pending with the government.

> This is precise follow-up action of the direction of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench while striking down the NJAC Act.
>
> **KIREN RIJIJU**
> Union Law Minister

The government's fresh move prompted Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh to allege that the government wants the judiciary to be "subservient". He called it a "poison pill for the judiciary".

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called the move "extremely dangerous", and said there should be no government interference in judicial appointments.

"I hope you honour Court's direction! This is precise follow-up action of the direction of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench while striking down the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) Act. The SC Constitution Bench had directed to restructure the MoP (Memorandum of Procedure) of the collegium system," Mr. Rijiju tweeted in response to Mr. Kejriwal.

The Law Minister's letter found fault with a Supreme Court judgment in 2021 which had given the government maximum 18 weeks to process the names forwarded to the Law Ministry by the High Courts and send them to the Supreme Court Collegium for final approval.

This came as a surprise as, on January 6, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani had informed a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul that the government would adhere to timelines fixed by the court to process recommendations for judicial appointments.

Calling the escalation in confrontation between the judiciary and the government as "orchestrated", Mr. Ramesh said, "The collegium needs reform. But what this government wants is complete subservience".

"How is it possible @KirenRijiju ji in the teeth of NJAC judgment of SC!! Though there are inherent issues in the collegium system, but the reigning sentiment in the country is to protect the independence of judiciary," Congress Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha said in a tweet.

Drafting of MoP

The underlying message in the Law Minister's letter is that the government is still not done with drafting the MoP for judicial appointments. It has been seven years since a Constitution Bench, in October 2015, struck down the NJAC that had given the government an equal role in judicial appointments. In the NJAC verdict, the court had asked the government to work, in consultation with the collegium, on evolving a more transparent and accountable MoP.

A revised draft MoP was sent to the then CJI by the government first on March 22, 2016 for the response of the collegium. After exchange of notes with the government, the collegium sent its final response on the proposed revisions to the MoP on March 13, 2017.

However, the government had rekindled communication with the collegium on July 4, 2017. The immediate trigger was the Supreme Court's *suo motu* contempt action against Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan, and his six months' prison sentence.

The government's July 2017 letter referred to remarks from no less than two judges on the Bench that Karnan's case was an ideal example of the failure of the collegium system to make a "correct assessment of the personality" of people under scanner for judgeships.

The July 2017 letter figures prominently in the current missive of the Law Minister to buttress the argument for more prominent government representation in the appointments' process.

The Supreme Court said it would follow the collegium system as long as the NJAC verdict remains the law. Parliament was free to introduce a new law, but it would be subject to judicial review.

Explained | Why is the NJAC verdict at the centre of the impasse over appointment of judges?
bit.ly/SCcollegiumsystem

Will consider plaints against PIL petitioner Upadhyay: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will consider complaints by the Tamil Nadu government and other parties against advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, a prolific PIL petitioner, for his "scurrilous" remarks against minority communities in a petition against "illegal" religious conversions and his alleged track record of filing and withdrawing petitions "on his own fancy".

"It appears PIL petitioners do not adhere to the rule of pleadings, *locus standi*... You cannot continuously file and withdraw petitions on your own fancy," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud addressed Mr. Upadhyay, represented by senior advocates Arvind Datar and Gaurav Bhatia.

Senior advocate P. Wilson, for Tamil Nadu, argued that Mr. Upadhyay had withdrawn a similar petition citing rampant illegal conversions in the country after the top court refused to entertain it in 2021. During the hearing, senior advocate Dushyant Dave drew the Chief Justice Bench's attention to the "vexatious and disparaging remarks" made in Mr. Upadhyay's petition against Muslims and Christians.

Proceedings overlap, says SC as it refuses to hear plea on Joshimath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Uttarakhand High Court to consider grievances regarding relief and rehabilitation for people affected by the Joshimath land sinking incident with "reasonable dispatch" if the issue is raised before it.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the top court ought not to intervene when the Uttarakhand High Court was already seized of a broad range of issues concerning the Joshimath land sinking.

"Substantial overlap emerges between the Supreme Court and Uttarakhand High Court proceedings," the top court said in its order.

The Bench also highlighted that the Uttarakhand High Court had already, on January 12, directed the State government to strictly implement the ban on construction in Joshimath.

'Approach HC'

The Bench gave petitioner Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati liberty to approach the Uttarakhand High Court either by filing a substantial and separate petition or through intervention in the current proceedings before it.

"An Uttarakhand High Court Division Bench led by Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi is already seized of the issue... We care only for relief for the people...Is the High Court under Article 226 not capable of giving it? Why can't you raise all your issues before the High Court?" the Bench asked.

Justice denied, say activists fighting for Joshimath; stir gains momentum

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Responding to the Supreme Court's decision of refusing to entertain a petition seeking to declare the Joshimath crisis a 'national disaster', and asking the petitioners to approach the Uttarakhand High Court, Atul Sati, convener of the Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS), said that his "apprehension" has come true.

"The High Court had denied us justice the last time. Now who will pay for the damage," questioned Mr. Sati. He said the Supreme Court had asked the petitioners to go to the same court (Uttarakhand HC) that had declined a petition filed by him and four others during the February 2021 floods.

"In that appeal, we requested the High Court to order for reconsidering the NTPC power project in Joshimath and ban the activities of environmental destruction in the area. The Justice then had called us 'puppets'. Today, the same project has become a threat to the existence of a town," Mr. Sati said.

Moving on: A man shifts his belongings from an unsafe building in a land subsidence-affected area in Joshimath on Monday. PTI

Against power project

Meanwhile, enraged with the "inaction" of the government against the NTPC, posters of "Go back NTPC" have come up in the town.

The JBSS has also announced a protest across the town on January 26 demanding the government to take money from the NTPC for the rehabilitation of the residents.

The villagers will stage a protest at the tehsil office on Republic Day along with blocking of roads and highways.

Ranjit Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Disaster Management Department, Uttarakhand government, on Monday said water discharge from the newly formed cracks in the area had reduced three times. "The initial discharge of water from the cracks was 540 litres per minute on January 6. The same has been reduced to 163 litres per minute. Also, three seismic measurements machines have been installed in Joshimath by the experts of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, from which the data is also being obtained," he added.

Twenty-three more houses in the town were declared as 'damaged' on Monday, taking the number of such houses to 849. Among the 849 houses, 165 are totally unfit to live in.

IWAI denies reports of cruise getting stuck in Ganga

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) denied reports that *MV Ganga Vilas*, the world's longest river cruise flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, got stuck due to low water levels in the Ganga on Monday.

Reports had claimed that the vessel got stuck in Chhapra district of Bihar on the third day of its journey when it was headed to Chirand, an archaeological site in Saran district. IWAI Chairman Sanjay Bandopadhyaya said the cruise reached Patna as per the schedule and that the vessel will continue its journey.

Invitation to Egypt President for Republic Day celebration is truly historic, says envoy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Security of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea connects Egypt with India and the Indian Ocean, Egypt's Ambassador to India said on Monday, laying out the new strategic partnership emerging between the two sides.

Speaking at an event organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to discuss bilateral relations in the context of the upcoming visit of President Abdel Fateh el-Sisi, Ambassador Wael Mohamed Awad Hamed said the invitation to the President for the Republic Day celebration was a "truly historic moment".

Abdel Fateh el-Sisi

Mr. Hamed also appreciated New Delhi for what he described as India's "independent" position on the Ukraine crisis.

"We are starting a new strategic partnership, which is first of all based on the defence and security pillar. When we speak about India and its position in the world, we have to remember that India is the major country in the Indian Ocean and the security of the Indian Ocean starts from the Red Sea in the west and for Egypt, security of the Suez Canal begins with the security of the Red Sea. So we both are linked together," Mr. Hamed said.

He welcomed India to take advantage of Egypt's "geographical location" between Asia and Europe and said his country can provide a "springboard" to Indian companies.

FIR over remarks about children of Kohli, Dhoni

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday registered an FIR against unidentified persons for allegedly making obscene and indecent comments on social media about the daughters of Indian cricketers Virat Kohli and M. S. Dhoni, based on a complaint from Delhi Commission of Women chairperson Swati Maliwal.

The police said a case had been registered under Section 67B (d) of the Information Technology (IT) Act and that various Twitter handles had been identified.

APPEAL

I am Muthuchellapandi aged 17 years, suffering from Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma and require Chemotherapy & Radiation therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 6,00,000/-**. Please donate and support me as my family is extremely poor and cannot afford this huge cost. I need your blessings. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No. 60182010063310. IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All corrspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF I, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph:044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. Email ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org**

Muthuchellapandi

Agnipath scheme will make forces more youthful and tech-savvy, says Modi

Hard work: The first batch of soldiers who were recruited under the Agnipath scheme undergoing training. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Terming the Agnipath scheme for recruitment a "transformative policy" which will be a "game changer" in strengthening the armed forces, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Agniveers would make the forces more youthful and tech-savvy.

Virtually addressing the recruits undergoing training at various centres across the country, Mr. Modi said their spirit was reflective of the bravery of the armed forces which had always kept the flag of the nation flying high.

Mr. Modi expressed happiness over how women Agniveers were adding pride to the naval forces, and said that he looked forward to seeing women Agniveers in all the three forces.

> Reservation is being ensured for Agniveers in various departments of Ministries and Central Armed Police Forces
>
> **RAJNATH SINGH**
> Defence Minister

There are around 270 women recruits among the close to 2,800 Agniveers recruited in the first batch by the Navy. The Prime Minister said that "New India" was filled with renewed vigour, and efforts were under way to modernise the armed forces as well as make them *aatmanirbhar* (self-reliant).

Noting that in the 21st century, the way wars are fought has been changing, with new fronts of contactless warfare and challenges of cyberwarfare, Mr. Modi said technologically advanced soldiers would play a key role in the armed forces.

'Welfare of Agniveers'

In his address, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pointed out that several Ministries, including the Defence Ministry, were coming forward for the welfare of the Agniveers. "Reservation is being ensured for Agniveers for a number of posts in various departments of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Central Armed Police Forces and Ministry of Railways. Arrangements are being made jointly by the MoD and Ministry of Education to ensure proper education to the Agniveers."

He added that in collaboration with the Finance Ministry, arrangements were being made to provide loans at reasonable rates to the Agniveers who wish to start self-employment or any business after service.

Constitution is holiest book for RJD, says Tejashwi

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Monday said the Constitution was the "holiest book" for the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) compared with any "religious" texts.

"The Constitution has given everyone the right to express their feelings. At the same time, it also says that we must respect all religions," Mr. Yadav said.

His statement came after State Education Minister and senior RJD leader Chandra Shekhar recently said that the *Ramcharitmanas* had "spread hatred in society". While RJD State unit president Jagadanand Singh supported the Minister's remarks, the party's national vice-president, Shivanand Tiwari, said the comments were Mr. Shekhar's personal views.

Mr. Yadav added that the BJP was nervous by the work done by the Bihar government and was behind the controversy.

He added that there were only two leaders in the seven-party *mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) in the State who enjoy people's support – Lalu Yadav and Nitish Kumar. "Those who are speaking a lot are *bayanveer*s (oversharers)," Mr. Yadav said.

SC verdicts expose negative campaign against Modi: BJP

Resolution passed at party's national executive meet also heaps praise on J.P. Nadda, but extension of his term as party president 'hasn't been discussed'; several State units submit reports on poll readiness

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The national executive meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in New Delhi on Monday accused the Opposition of consistently running a "negative campaign" and using "abusive language" against the government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi under whose leadership, the party said, the country had enhanced its global image.

Accusations by the Opposition continued, despite Supreme Court verdicts in the government's favour on many issues, the political resolution passed on the first day of its two-day national executive said. The resolution also heaped praise on BJP president J.P. Nadda for having led the party to major victories, brightening prospects that he may get an extension in the position at the end of the executive meet.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who briefed the press after the resolution was passed, clarified that Mr. Nadda's extension had not come up in the discussion.

Grand welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow on Sansad Marg in New Delhi on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju proposed the political resolution at the key meeting, and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and Karnataka Minister Govind Karjol seconded it, Ms. Sitharaman said.

With Mr. Rijiju belonging to a tribal community, Mr. Maurya to the Other Backward Classes and Mr. Karjol from the Scheduled Caste community, the BJP's messaging through the national executive to foreground social groups that the BJP has won over with considerable electoral success in the past few years, was also clear.

Ms. Sitharaman said the political resolution cited a number of issues over which the Opposition had built a campaign against the government, including Rafale, Pegasus, Central Vista project, demonetisation and EWS quota, and said the Supreme Court verdicts in the government's favour on them exposed it.

"Unfounded allegations were levelled against PM Modi but the crushing legal response exposed the Opposition," she said citing the political resolution.

She said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "is seen as an incorruptible leader who is working for the country's interest and whose leadership has found respect globally".

"Prime Minister Modi's assertion that this is not an era of war during his telephonic talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin echoed in the G-20 declaration at Bali and his push for United Nations reform has been recognised," she said.

She also said the State units from Karnataka, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya that are gearing up for Assembly elections presented reports on organisational readiness with regard to these polls.

Asked specifically about Mr. Nadda's extension, since his three-year tenure ends this month and no organisational polls to enable the election of a new party president has been done, Ms. Sitharaman said that "no such discussion was part of the political resolution".

Ensure BJP doesn't lose any polls in 2023: Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Monday emphasised the importance of the 2023 electoral calendar, with nine Assembly elections due, and its significance for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, and said that the party organisation should ensure the BJP's victory in all the contests.

Mr. Nadda was addressing the BJP's national executive meet in New Delhi.

Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, briefing the media on Mr. Nadda's presidential address, said the BJP chief exhorted party leaders to make all efforts to ensure that the party does not lose any of the nine Assembly elections.

Nearly 350 leaders from across the country, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States, are taking part in the meet.

Mr. Nadda, in whose home State of Himachal Pradesh the BJP lost the election recently, said the party "has to work to bring it to power in the States where it is in Opposition and to make the States, where it is in power, its impregnable fort".

The States going to the polls this year are Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana.

In his nearly 45-minute address, Mr. Nadda highlighted the representation to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the BJP governments in the States and at the Centre, besides in Constitutional positions. "The party is getting votes of the backward classes, SCs and STs and is giving them representation. This shows our resolve of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,* and *Sabka Prayas*," he said, giving credit to Mr. Modi for the party's expanding voter base.

"India has become the world's fifth-largest economy, second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones, third-largest manufacturer in the auto sector while the length of highways being built every day has risen to 37 km from 12 km earlier," he said.

Mann should work without interference, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday and said that he should work independently and not become "anyone's remote control".

Addressing a gathering in Hoshiarpur, as his Bharat Jodo Yatra continued its journey in the State, Mr. Gandhi said Punjab should be run from Punjab and not from Delhi.

"Every State has its history, its language and way of life ... Punjab should be run from Punjab only... I want to tell Bhagwant Mann that you are the Chief Minister of Punjab, and you should not come under the pressure of Delhi, or the pressure of [Arvind] Kejriwal [AAP's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister]... it is a matter of honour of Punjab. You [Mr. Mann] should work independently. You should work by listening to the hearts of the farmers and labourers, and should not be come anyone's remote control. You should understand that whenever the Congress party ruled Punjab, we used this philosophy. The Chief Minister of Punjab should run Punjab," he said.

कार्यालय अधीक्षक राजकीय शिशु गृह, बाल अधिकारिता विभाग,
गांधी नगर, जयपुर, फोन नं. 0141-2706480

क्र. सं.	संस्था द्वारा दिया गया नाम	लिंग	आयु	प्राप्ति का स्थान	प्रवेश माध्यम
1	आस्था	F	07.12.2022	राजकीय जयपुरिया अस्पताल जयपुर के पालना गृह से प्राप्त	बाल कल्याण समिति, जयपुर
2	राजेश पुत्र रमेश	M	05 वर्ष	चाइल्ड लाईन जे.के.एस.एम.एस. जयपुर द्वारा प्राप्त	बाल कल्याण समिति, जयपुर
3	शिवानी	F	01 वर्ष	पुलिस थाना सिन्धी कैम्प जयपुर जयपुर द्वारा प्राप्त	बाल कल्याण समिति, जयपुर
4	कार्तिका	F	02 वर्ष 05 माह	पुलिस थाना सिन्धी कैम्प जयपुर द्वारा प्राप्त	बाल कल्याण समिति, जयपुर

नोट:- उक्त चारो बालिकाओं का पुनर्वास किया जाना है किसी संस्था या व्यक्ति विशेष को कोई आपत्ति हो तो क्र.स. 01 से 04 तक के लिए 20 दिवस के भीतर अद्योहस्ताक्षरकर्त्ता से सम्पर्क करें।
राजस्थान संवाद
अधीक्षक

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 1)E-Tender 77/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN (2)E-Tender 78/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN **Jal Jeevan Mission Ernakulam District -** 1)WSS to Kavalangad Pt-Providing functional house tap connections to all houses - Package - II -Distribution components - Laying of distribution lines, providing FHTC.-2)WSS to Maneedu, Mulamthuruthy, Edakkattuvayal and Amballoor Panchayaths-Construction of 5 Nos OHSR, Laying CWPM and GM, Laying Distribution lines to all zones and Providing FHTC. **EMD :** Rs. 500000, 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 17700, 17700, **Last Date for submitting Tender : 02-02-2023 03:00 pm**, **Phone : 0484-2360645** Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi

KWA-JB-GL-6-1425-2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
RENGALI HEAD WORKS CIRCLE, SAMAL
Email ID-scicsamal19@gmail .com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(e-Procurement Notice No. ACE-RHWC-04/2022-23)
Bid Identification No. ACE-RH WC- RLBCD-01 of 2022-23.

The Additional Chief Engineer, Rengali Head Works Circle, Samal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in **Double Cover System** to be received in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of Irrigation work as detailed below:

1	Name of the work	:	Renovation of Nuapal (Naupal) Distributary and Lodhani Minor Canal of Left Main Canal of Rengali Irrigation project.
2	Estimated Cost put to tender.	:	Rs.509.87 Lakhs
3	Cost of tender paper	:	Rs 10,000.00 + 18 % GST
4	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security (Onliile)	:	Rs 5,09,900.00
5	Class of contractor	:	'A' Class
6	Period of Completion of work	:	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months including monsoon season.
7	Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website.	:	Dt.18.01.2023 from 10.00 A.M to Dt.04.02.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.
8	Date of opening of Techincal Bid	:	Dt.06.02.2023 at 11.30 hours
9	Place of opening of Techincal Bid	:	In the office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rengali Head Works Circle, Samal.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer
Rengali Head Works Circle, Samal

A-1027
OIPR-32410/11/0003/2223

Government of India
PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX, TAMILNADU & PUDUCHERRY
121, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Chennai 600 034. Ph: 044 - 2833 8383 / Fax No. 044 - 2833 8317

C.No.26(5)/Estt/Sports/2022 Dated: 30.12.2022

RECRUITMENT OF MERITORIOUS SPORTS PERSONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX, TAMILNADU AND PUDUCHERRY REGION

1. Applications are invited from the meritorious sports persons fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per particulars mentioned in Annexure I for appointment to the post of Income Tax Inspector, Tax Assistant and Multi-Tasking Staff in Income Tax Department, Tamilnadu and Puducherry region.

2. The willing and eligible candidates can send their application form online in the website(https://tnincometax.gov.in.sportsquota/application2021.php) mentioned in Annexure-I on or before 06/02/2023.

The Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Tamilnadu & Puducherry, invites applications for the recruitment of meritorious Sportspersons in different games, sports as listed below for the following posts:

S.No	Post	Pay Band (Pre-revised)	Grade Pay(Pre-revised)
1.	Income Tax Inspector	9300-34800	9300-34800 + Grade Pay 4600 (PB-2)
2.	Tax Assistant	5200-20200	5200-20200 + Grade Pay 2400 (PB-1)
3.	Multi-Tasking Staff	5200-20200	5200-20200 + Grade Pay 1800 (PB-1)

The posts are temporary but likely to be permanent. The probation period is of 2 years.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

01. AGE LIMIT :
For Inspector of Income Tax : 18 to 30 years of age
For Tax Assistant/ Multi-Tasking Staff : 18 to 27 years of age
Relaxation of Age : 5 years for General/OBC candidates 10 years in case of SC/ST candidates (As per Govt. of India instructions for meritorious Sports persons)

Note: Cut off date for all the eligibility criteria, including age and education is 01/04/2022

02. ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:
1. For Income Tax Inspectors:- (i) Degree from a recognized University or equivalent
2. For Tax Assistants:-
(i) Degree from a recognized University or equivalent
(ii) Having Data Entry Speed of 8,000 Key depressions per hour
3. For Multi Tasking Staff:- (i) 10th class pass or equivalent from a recognized board or university

03. NUMBER OF VACANCIES:

S.No.	Cadre	Vacancy
1	Income Tax Inspector	28
2	Tax Assistant	28
3	Multi-Tasking Staff	16
	Total	72

04. SPORTS ELIGIBILITY:
Appointment can be made of a sportsperson considered meritorious with reference to the following criteria:-
Sportspersons having represented
(i) A State or the Country in a National or International Competition in any of the games/sports as mentioned in Para 6; or
(ii) Their University in the Inter-University Tournaments conducted by the Inter-University Sports Board in any of the games/sports as mentioned in Para 6; or
(iii) The State Schools Team in the National Sports/Games for schools conducted by All India School Games Federation in any of the games/sports as mentioned in Para 6; or
(iv) Sportsperson who has been awarded National Awards in Physical Efficiency under National Physical Efficiency Drive.

Note: The merit of sportspersons, who fulfil the aforesaid eligibility conditions, shall be considered/decided in the order of preference given above. Further, priority would be given to current players based on the best of three performances in the Calendar Year (in the descending order) 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 (after 01.01.2019) shall be considered for evaluation.

05. EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF MERIT IN SPORTS EVENTS/GAMES:
Only certificates awarded by the authorities mentioned hereunder will be taken into account as evidence in support of having participated in competitions in any of the above Sports events/Games while considering eligibility of the applicant. A candidate who cannot produce self-attested copies of at least one certificate issued by one of the authorities mentioned here under along with application need not apply.

S.No.	Competition	Authority awarding certificate	Form
1.	International	Secretary of the National Federation of the game concerned.	Form-1
2.	National	Secretary of the National Federation or the Secretary of the State Association of the game concerned.	Form-2
3.	Inter-University tournament	Dean of Sports or other Officer in overall charge of Sports of the University concerned.	Form-3
4.	National/Sports/ games for School	Director of Additional/Joint or Deputy Director in overall charge of Sports/games for schools in the Directorate of Public Instructions/Education of the State.	Form-4
5.	Physical Efficiency Drive	Secretary or other Officer in overall charge of Physical Efficiency in the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India.	Form-5

Note: Sports achievements certified by the recognised authorities in specified forms (Form 1 to Form 5) as per Annexure 'A' of Department of Personnel and Training OM in F.No. 14034/01/2013-Estt(D) dated 03/10/2013 which is available online in the URL mentioned below will only be considered:
https://tnincometax.gov.in/sportsquota/application2022.php

06. LIST OF PREFERRED GAMES/SPORTS FOR WHICH THE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED:

S.No.	Game / Sports	No. of Vacancies Men	Women
1.	Athletics	5	5
2.	Badminton	2	2
3.	Basket Ball	5	12
4.	Body Building	1	0
5.	Carrom	1	1
6.	Chess	1	1
7.	Contract Bridge	2	0
8.	Cricket	5	0

S.No.	Game / Sports	No. of Vacancies Men	Women
9.	Football	6	0
10.	Hockey	8	0
11.	Kabaddi	4	0
12.	Lawn Tennis	1	1
13.	Swimming	1	1
14.	Table Tennis	1	1
15.	Volley Ball	5	0

Note-1: In case of non-availability of eligible candidates in any of the above Games/Sports, the Department reserves its right not to consider such games/sports and allot the vacancies reserved for such games/sport to any of the remaining games/sports in the above list or games notified by DoPT as per Annexure 'A' of O.M. No. 14015/1/76-Estt.(D) dated 4th August, 1980, Para 1 of O.M. No. 14034/4/85-Estt.(D) dated 18th September, 1985, Appendix to O.M. No. 14034/1/91-Estt.(D) dated 21st March, 1991, Para 3 of O.M. No. 14034/1/2009-Estt(D) dated 24th November, 2009, Appendix to O.M. No. 14034/1/2013-Estt(D) dated 01st September 2020, Para 2 of O.M. No. 14034/1/2013-Estt(D) dated 29th January 2021 and Para 2 of O.M. 14034/1/2013-Estt(D) dated 17th June 2022.

Note-2: In case of non-availability of eligible candidates in any of the vacancies earmarked against each gender for the above sports/games, the Pr.CCIT, Tamilnadu and Puducherry reserves the right to allot such vacancies to any of the gender in terms of Note-1 of Para-6.

07. HOW TO APPLY: Applications must be submitted only by online mode which can be accessed from the following **URL: https://tnincometax.gov.in/sportsquota/application2022.php**
08. The candidate on appointment will be liable for posting at any place in Tamilnadu and Puducherry Region.
09. The applicant shall upload attested copies of the following certificates:
(I) Matriculation/SSC or equivalent certificate for proof of age.
(ii) Certificates of Educational qualifications.
(iii) Sports/games certificates as mentioned at S.No. 05 above.
(iv) SC/ST/OBC community certificate.
(v) Copy of Aadhar Card
The candidate must be in possession of the requisite qualification for the concerned post as on 01/04/2022.
10. Sports persons who are already employed in Central Government or State Government or PSU should submit the NOC from the present employer which should be uploaded in the online application form.
11. The selected candidates will be posted in Tamilnadu and Puducherry region only. The selected candidates will be on probation for 2 years or such period as per the extant instructions of the Government of India. His/her participation in the tournament/meets on behalf of the department will also be a deciding factor in the declaration of his/her probation. The selected candidate will be required to represent the Income Tax Department, Tamilnadu and Puducherry Region in the tournaments/meets as decided at least for 10 years. The selected candidates will be required to give an undertaking not to apply for transfer on loan basis/ any other inter-charge transfer arrangement which the CBDT may devise in future, for a minimum period of 10 years.
12. The declaration to this effect to work at any place under Pr CCIT (CCA), Tamilnadu and Puducherry Region, should be submitted during the pre-appointment process.
13. Services of the selected candidates as far as participation in sporting activities and leave management etc. shall strictly be subject to fulfilment of the conditions as enumerated in the DOPT's O.M. No. 6/1/85-Estt.(Pay-I) dated 16th July, 1985.
14. Application duly filled and completed in all respect, shall be submitted online on or before the stipulated date. The application link in the Department website will be functional **till 11:59 pm on the said stipulated date, i.e., 06/02/2023.**
15. Application submitted online with soft copies of invalid documents or illegible scanned documents will be rejected and no correspondence in the matter will be made with the applicant. Eligible candidates will be called for Document Verification. The date and venue for Document Verification will be intimated to the eligible candidates in due course.
16. Any form of canvassing by any candidate will render his/her candidature liable to be rejected summarily at any stage of recruitment process.
17. The Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Tamilnadu and Puducherry region, has right to cancel the recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.
18. In the event of any tie, the decision of Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Tamilnadu and Puducherry region shall be final.

(R. KUMARAN)
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX
(HQRS)(ADMN), CHENNAI.

INBRIEF

DCGI approves market authorisation for Covovax

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved market authorisation to COVID-19 vaccine Covovax as a heterologous booster dose for adults who have been administered two doses of Covishield or Covaxin, official sources said on Monday. The DCGI's approval came following recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). Prakash Kumar Singh, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs at the Serum Institute of India (SII), had written to the DCGI for approval of Covovax heterologous booster dose for those aged 18 years and above.

Week-long event to celebrate Subhas Chandra Bose's life

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will organise a week-long event revolving around the life of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his contribution to the freedom struggle as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week' to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence. The events on Netaji's life will begin today. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be the chief guest at the culmination event to be held in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands on January 23, the Ministry said in a statement.

Himachal CM issues direction to identify landslip zones

Amid the ongoing disaster in the form of sinking Joshimath in neighbouring Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday issued directions to identify earthquake-prone areas along with landslips and sinking zones across the State. The Chief Minister directed the departments concerned to identify the areas more prone to earthquakes particularly in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, and Kinnaur districts, and to prepare a detailed report of landslips and sinking zones.

ISRO likely to push Venus mission 'Shukrayaan I' to 2031

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

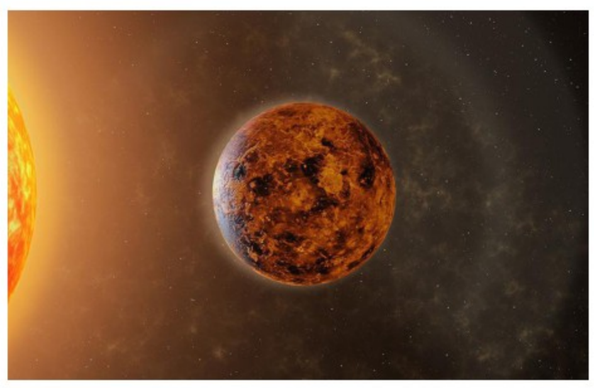
In a talk on January 9, P. Sreekumar, the Satish Dhawan Professor at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and adviser to its space science programme, said that the organisation was yet to receive approval from the Union government for the Venus mission and that the mission could as a result be postponed to 2031.

ISRO's Venus mission, Shukrayaan I, was expected to be launched in December 2024. The idea was born in 2012. Five years later, ISRO commenced preliminary studies after the Department of Space received a 23% increase in the 2017-18 Budget.

The organisation sought payload proposals from research institutes in April 2017.

Optimal launch windows from earth to Venus occur once around every 19 months. This is why ISRO has "back-up" launch dates in 2026 and 2028, should it miss the 2024 opportunity. But even more optimal windows, which further reduce the amount of fuel required at lift-off, come around every eight years.

Mr. Sreekumar, speaking at an Indo-French astronomy meeting at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru,



Shukrayaan I will be an orbiter mission whose scientific payloads include a high-resolution synthetic aperture radar. GETTY IMAGES

said that Shukrayaan I was "originally scheduled for a 2023 launch", but that "right now the 2031 window is very good". He added that the mission was "waiting for formal approval and money", which are required before spacecraft assembly and testing.

He said both the U.S. and the European space agencies had Venus missions planned for 2031 – referring to VERITAS and EnVision, respectively – while "China might go anytime: 2026, 2027, whenever they want to go".

ISRO had originally hoped to launch Shukrayaan I in mid-2023 but cited the pandemic when it pushed the date to December 2024. Other ISRO missions, including Aditya L1 and Chandrayaan III, have also been affected by manufacturing delays and commercial launch commitments.

Shukrayaan I will be an orbiter mission. Its scientific payloads currently include a high-resolution synthetic aperture radar and a ground-penetrating radar. The mission is expected to study Venus's geological and volcanic activity, emissions on the ground, wind speed, cloud cover, and other planetary characteristics from an elliptical orbit.

ISRO received an allocation of ₹13,700 crore in the 2022-23 Budget, marginally higher than the year before.

The bulk was diverted to the human space flight mission, Gaganyaan. Ahead of the forthcoming Budget announcement, and following recent reforms in the private space flight sector, various industry groups have drafted a wishlist, including boosts to local manufacturing and procurement.

SC to hear petitions against marital rape from March 21

CJI asks Union government to file its affidavit on or before February 15; Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta says the case has not only legal ramifications but also widespread social impact

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will begin hearing a series of petitions seeking to criminalise marital rape from March 21.

A three-judge Bench led by the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, directed the Union of India to file its response in an affidavit. The Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said the case not only has legal ramifications but also widespread social impact. He said the Centre even invited the States to give their views two or three months ago.

The court asked the government to file its affidavit on or before February 15.

> A man is a man; an act is an act; rape is a rape, be it performed by a man, the 'husband', on the woman, 'wife'
> KARNATAKA HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court had earlier held that a man was liable to be charged for rape under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) if he had forcible sex with his wife. The Karnataka government had supported the High Court judgment in an affidavit in the apex court subsequently.

Exception Two to Section 375 of the IPC decriminalises marital rape and holds that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, who is not under 18 years of age, without her consent, is not rape.

"A man is a man; an act is an act; rape is a rape, be it performed by a man, the 'husband', on the woman, 'wife'," the Karnataka High Court had observed in its decision.

A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court had, in May 2022, delivered a split verdict in a separate case on the identical issue. Justice Rajiv Shakdher, who headed the two-judge Bench, struck down as unconstitutional the Exception Two to Section 375 of the IPC.

Mr. Mehta asked the CJI whether the apex court should wait till a three-judge Bench of the Delhi High Court delivered its decision in the case. But the CJI said the apex court already had the benefit of the crystallised views of two judges and would go forward and hear the petitions.

Opposition's protest stalls demonstration of RVM prototype

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission's scheduled demonstration for political parties of a prototype remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM) could not take place on Monday after the Opposition raised objections to the need for remote voting, the definition of migrant voters and the logistics of the remote voting exercise.

The parties voiced concerns over larger electoral issues such as a "level playing field for all", electoral bonds, proportional representation and "lack of trust" in the EVM process.

At a meeting called by the EC here to demonstrate the remote EVM, which the commission said could enable migrant voters exercise their franchise at their place of work, the Opposition parties questioned the need for remote EVMs and instead asked the EC to address urban apathy towards the electoral process.

Sources said that due to lack of any consensus in Monday's meeting, the last date for submission of the written comments by political parties has also been postponed to February 28 from January 31. They said that Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar heard all the views expressed and said the EC would not proceed till there was a consensus and more discussions were held.

On December 29, the

Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey at the event.

Election Commission had announced that it has developed a prototype for a Multi-Constituency Remote Electronic Voting Machine, which would enable remote voting by migrant voters and had asked the political parties to submit their written comments by January 31.

"No Opposition party wants to see the demonstration of a remote voting machine [RVM]. First, the issue of the need to have such a machine should be settled," senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, who represented his party, said after Monday's meeting.

Mr. Singh said that he felt there would be no RVM demonstration till there is a consensus on having one. "No political party is prepared to see the demonstration. The idea of RVM is not acceptable".

In the meeting, the Congress party raised concerns on the process of identification and registration of remote voters in a constituency and the voting procedure like deciding polling centres for remote voters.

'Video gaming industry separate from real money games'

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Representatives from the video gaming industry on Monday, in a letter viewed by *The Hindu*, sent a representation to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), asking the government to treat video games separately from real money games that involve wagering real money.

This comes as the Ministry moves to regulate "online gaming," whose definition for now is limited to real money gaming platforms.

"The current draft notification combines 'video games' and 'online games played for stakes' into the same regulatory purview," the consortium of over 40 video game and esports companies said.

Indian companies that have signed this representation letter include Ludo King developer Gametion, and two large gaming livestreaming platforms, Loco and Rooter, as well as Indus and MaskGun creator SuperGaming to name a few.

Chennai-based Outlier Games organised the effort.

The Ministry moves to regulate "online gaming," whose definition for now is limited to real money gaming platforms. GETTY IMAGES

"We note that there seem to be no countries in the world which recognise and regulate" these two categories of games similarly, the letter said. "Prudence requires that this distinction be acknowledged and considered in an appropriate light."

"Broadly, the advanced video game markets globally like the United States, Canada, the U.K., the EU, Japan, South Korea and Australia have legislative treatment that is clearly demarcated," the letter added.

"We must very strongly impress upon the policymakers, regulators and other arms of the government to treat online games played for stakes and video games as distinct subjects," the letter stated.

Industry officials have sought a consultative meeting with the MeitY, like the one scheduled between representatives of the real money gaming industry and government officials, for Tuesday.

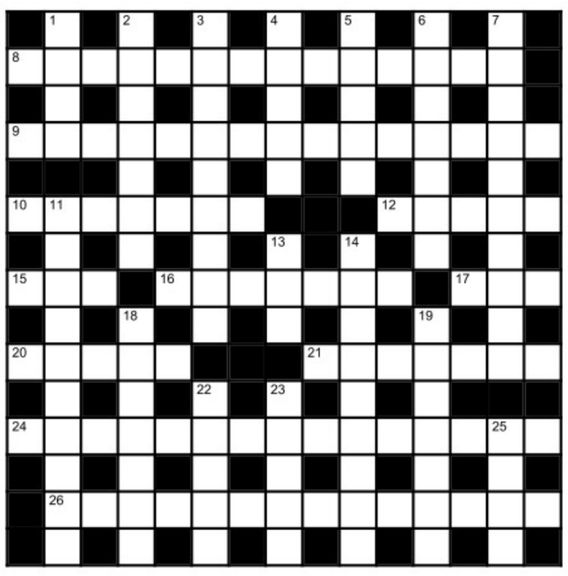
The draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 proposed by the MeitY only qualifies those as "online games" where a player "makes a deposit with the expectation of earning winnings".

TH CROSSWORD + 13764

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 May yet save Taj with a revolutionary national motto (8,6)
9 'Eve' is top part and fits Angelina Jolie and Madonna, say (8,7)
10 Diffusion of some of skins regularly (7)
12 No men complain outright (7)
15 Sleuths of big cases? (3)
16 Require or need about a couple of royals (7)
17 Coming from behind we quietly find a seat (3)
20 Misrepresent faith mainly (5)
21 Charities built around 'love' saint, somethings that quite didn't make it! (7)
24 Long and complicated calculations burn me! (6,9)
26 Angry Serbs burn icons of those who are not in support (14)

Down

1 Returns two-fold praise (4)
2 50% harmonious cat sign (7)
3 English legislator starts to insult Rishi incisively, citing abject lack of real ground experience! (9)
4 One struggled, being surrounded by creepers (5)
5 Revolutionary married to a traitor (5)
6 Men had a good time before starting of arguments between Red & Blue (7)
7 Gold, for example, despatched by Spooner for colonisation (10)
11 Queen's bust carved later (10)
13 So, almost a place where sand dunes shift? (3)
14 Most of cryptic clues are kind of jokes (3-5)
18 Amitabh Bachchan - a new generation symbol of impactful beginning (3,4)
19 Lots of work for this famous founder of a business house (7)
22 Set and develop without work (5)
23 Shocking lies about Schutzstaffel or Gestapo leader (5)
25 If this geek could become friend... (4)

SUDOKU

1	7	5	4					
8	2		7				1	
								5
5		3		2			6	
	1		6	7	4		5	
	6			1		8		2
4								
	9				8		7	1
					1	2	8	3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5681 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

1	7	5	4	6	9	3	8	2
8	2	9	7	3	5	4	1	6
3	4	6	8	1	2	9	7	5
5	8	3	9	2	1	7	6	4
9	1	4	6	7	4	2	5	8
7	6	2	5	1	3	8	4	2
4	3	1	2	5	6	8	9	7
2	9	7	3	4	8	6	7	1
6	5	8	1	9	7	2	3	4

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	5	9	8	3	7	4	2
7	2	9	4	6	1	8	3	5
8	3	4	7	2	5	9	6	1
9	7	2	5	4	8	6	1	3
5	8	6	1	3	2	4	7	9
3	4	1	6	7	9	5	2	8
4	1	8	3	9	7	2	5	6
6	9	3	2	5	4	1	8	7
2	5	7	8	1	6	3	9	4

FAITH

Treading the virtuous paths

We have to lead our life in that manner that God should be pleased to accept us as His devotee. How to lead then such a life. Scriptures say it is very simple by treading two virtuous paths. One is refraining from indulging in proscribed activities and the other is involving oneself in carrying good things. Sri Andal says in Tiruppavai on our behalf that we will not do acts that are not to be performed and will not talk ill of others. "Seyyadhana Seyyom; Theekuuralai chendrodhome".

Rather we have to take pity and show our sympathy to those who are suffering in their life due to various reasons. Goddess Sita had never complained to Sri Rama of others and even about the sufferings that she had undergone in Asokavanam.

While undertaking good things many obstacles may creep in. Sometimes we may be forced to even give up. Saints and great people are no exception to this but our patience and grit, determination will ultimately yield benefits. It is said in Sri Ramayana that in order to initiate Vibheeshana and Sugreeva in their kingdoms later, Lord Rama postponed His coronation initially.

Sri Ramanuja had to face a great ordeal and a stiff resistance from a section of the people while doing divine service to Lord Ranganatha at Srirangam. Even poison-mixed food was offered but the Acharya emerged unscathed.

Like a lamp glowing in a darkroom, in this dark earth, His great qualities like mercy, compassion, forgiveness, excellence in disposition, radiate to show us the paths to derive the blessings, said Sri Parasara Bhadri Battar swamy in a discourse.

ROME

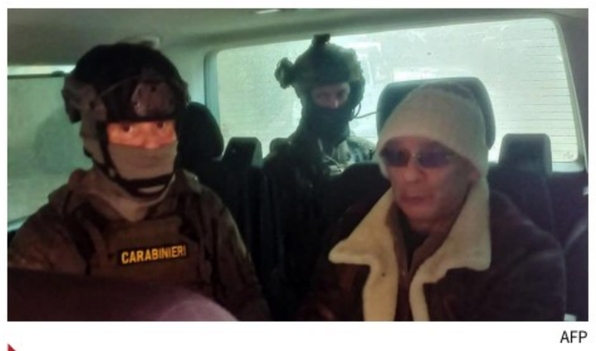
Actor and Italian film legend Gina Lollobrigida dies aged 95 years

AFP

Italian actor Gina Lollobrigida, one of the last icons of the Golden Age of Hollywood, has died aged 95, Culture Minister Gennaro Sangiuliano said on Twitter on Monday. Best known for *Bread, Love and Dreams* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, she was famed for her biting wit and sensual beauty. AFP

PALERMO

Italy catches fugitive Mafia boss Messina Denaro after 30 years

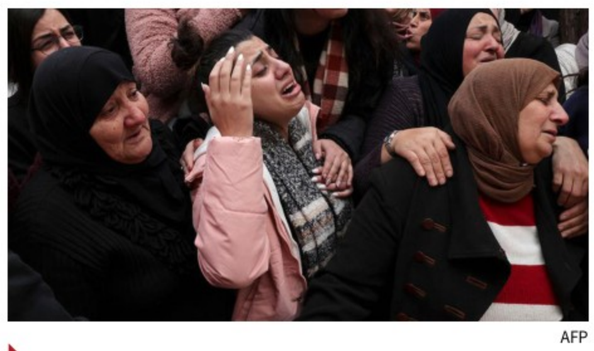


AFP

Italy caught Sicilian godfather Matteo Messina Denaro on Monday, ending a 30-year manhunt for the country's most wanted fugitive. A ruthless operator who once boasted he could "fill a cemetery" with his victims, the 60-year-old was a leading figure in Cosa Nostra, the real-life Sicilian crime syndicate depicted in *The Godfather*. AFP

RAMALLAH

Israeli armed forces kill 14-year-old Palestinian boy in Bethlehem

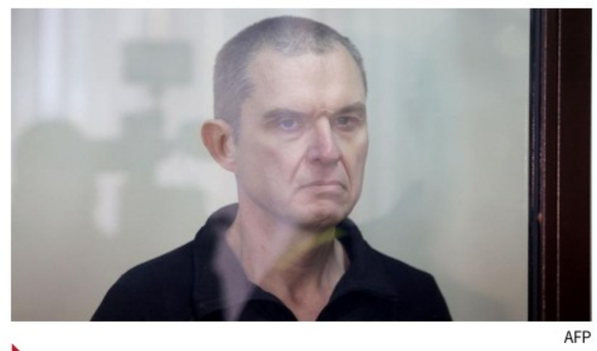


AFP

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian boy on Monday near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, where the Army said they opened fire after people threw Molotov cocktails. The 14-year-old was shot in the head in the Dheisheh refugee camp and "succumbed to his wounds". AFP

TALLINN

Belarus opens trial of journalist of prominent Polish newspaper



AFP

Belarus opened the trial of a journalist and prominent member of the country's sizeable Polish minority, the latest in a series of court cases against critics of of President Alexander Lukashenko. Andrzej Poczobut, 49, faces up to 12 years in prison if convicted of the charges of harming national security and inciting discord. AP

As talks with Tamils drag on , Ranil pledges full implementation of 13th Amendment

The President has pledged to resolve the ethnic conflict before February 4 when Sri Lanka marks its 75th anniversary of Independence

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan government will "fully implement" the 13th Amendment, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Sunday, making a familiar promise to the Tamils on the nearly 40-year-old legislation guaranteeing a measure of power devolution to the island's provinces.

"We hope to fully implement the 13th Amendment of the Constitution. Not only in the North but also in the South, the Chief Ministers are demanding that it be implemented," Mr. Wickremesinghe said, speaking at a Pongal event organised in Jaffna, in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northern Province.

His remarks come even as his government is engaged in talks with the Tamil political leadership to find a durable political solution to the civil war-scarred island nation's long-pending national question. The President has pledged to resolve the ethnic conflict – tied to the historic demand of Sri Lanka's Tamils for equality and self-determination– before February 4, 2023, when Sri Lanka marks its 75th anniversary of Independence.

Ranil Wickremesinghe

'No tangible action'

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the main grouping representing Tamils in the north and east in Parliament, has participated in four rounds of discussions with the President since December 2022, including one last week. The Alliance has urged the government to fully implement the 13th Amendment, passed consequent to the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987, as a necessary first step while negotiating a final political settlement. With no movement on it so far, and little tangible action on its other urgent demands pertaining to land grabs in the north and east, prolonged detention of political prisoners, and answers to enforced disappearances, the TNA said it has little hope left in the process.

Not the solution

On the President's renewed promise to implement the 13th Amendment in full, TNA spokesman and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran said several Presidents have "threatened to implement" it in the past. "That's not the solution to the national question, implementing what is already in the Constitution is the least they can do. And they have not done even that," he said.

In the last meeting, the TNA presented a document of five specific actions that can be taken immediately in this regard, such as setting up a national land commission and provincial police forces; amending or reversing certain acts to restore power to the provincial councils; and giving provincial councils the necessary administrative powers to run schools and hospitals. "Let them take those steps first, otherwise we see no point in just continuing talks with the government," Mr. Sumanthiran said.

Pilot couple killed in Nepal plane crashes 16 years apart

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Grieving for her husband who was killed while flying a small Yeti Airlines' passenger plane in 2006, Anju Khatiwada decided to become a pilot and went to the U.S. for an aviation course.

Sixteen years later, in a tragic twist of fate, Anju died in a crash when her aircraft of the same airline fell into a deep gorge near Pokhara's new airport on Sunday, with 72 people on board.

Anju was married to Deepak Pokharel, who used to fly helicopters of the Nepal Army. After a few years of their marriage, Deepak, who became a pilot of Yeti Airlines, died in a Twin-Otter crash in Jumla district in 2006.

She joined Yeti Airlines in 2010 and became a captain fulfilling her dream. But 16 years after Deepak's death, Anju died when her 9N-ANC ATR-72 aircraft crashed on the bank of the Seti river between the old airport and the new airport in Pokhara.

According to the airlines' sources, Anju, who completed her school at St. Joseph's School in Biratnagar, had flown 6,396 hours in Kathmandu, Bhadrapur, Biratnagar, Dhangadhi and other airports.

Toll from Russian strike on residential building in Ukraine rises to 40

Agence France-Presse
DNIPRO

The toll from a devastating Russian strike on Dnipro rose to 40 on Monday, as more bodies were pulled from the debris of one of Russia's deadliest attacks since its invasion.

Residents gathered to watch as cranes removed collapsing sections of the Soviet-style residential building that was ripped open by the strike in central Ukraine on Saturday.

Three children dead

The emergency services gave the new toll specifying that three children were among those dead and that 34 people were still unaccounted for.

The Kremlin claimed its forces were not responsible.

The rising cost of the strike came as Russia and its close ally Belarus announced the beginning of new joint military drills.

Its Defence Ministry said the air force exercises would involve joint "tactical" flights and that every airfield in Belarus would be involved.

Other developments

Meanwhile, UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi was expected in Ukraine on Monday to deploy observer missions at nuclear power plants across the country that have been a key concern throughout Russia's invasion.

German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht resigned on Monday after months of heavy criticism over Berlin's stuttering response to the war in Ukraine.

Britain this weekend pledged 14 Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine, which would make it the first Western country to supply the heavy tanks Kyiv has asked for.

Prominent Pakistani lawyer murdered in Peshawar HC

Press Trust of India
PESHAWAR

A prominent Pakistani lawyer was murdered on Monday under dramatic circumstances after another lawyer opened fire at him in the Bar room of the Peshawar High Court.

Abdul Latif Afridi, 79, was the former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and a key figure at the forefront of the lawyers' movement in Pakistan that culminated in the restoration of former Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry.

On Monday, Mr. Afridi was seated in the bar room at the Peshawar High Court, when Mr. Adnan, a trainee lawyer, opened fire at him. Six bullets were fired at Mr. Afridi.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed "deep sorrow" over Mr. Afridi's murder.

U.K.-EU in talks to reach deal on Northern Ireland trade

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and European Commission VP Maros Sefcovic held virtual talks on Monday hoping to progress an agreement on goods trade in Northern Ireland (NI), to resolve an impasse created by Brexit, Britain's departure from the EU.

The two ministers had reached an agreement last week in which the U.K. would permit the EU real time access to trade data across the Irish Sea, which separates Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K.

The U.K. is hoping to wrap up a deal for the region by April. Last week's trade database deal is connected to a 2022 U.K. proposal, which involves a green lane for goods with a final destination of NI and a red lane for goods heading to Ireland (i.e., the EU). Another issue between the parties is the extent of the authority of the European Courts of Justice.

The problem has ramifications beyond the EU, and Rishi Sunak had told Joe Biden that a deal would be reached on the NI protocol, by April 10

In Monday's talks, the Ministers committed to "protect both Northern Ireland's place in the U.K.'s internal market and the integrity of the EU's Single Market" as per a joint statement issued by the governments.

Both sides have, at least officially, tried to refrain from providing a blow by blow account. The joint statement said they had agreed to continue collaborating on the scoping exercise for potential solutions.

The 2019 trading 'protocol', allows NI to continue in the EU Single Market, thereby avoiding a customs border between NI and the Republic of Ireland, which is part of the E.U. As a consequence, goods arriving from Great Britain (i.e., the rest of the U.K.) are checked at the ports in NI, creating a political untenable situation for the U.K.

NI's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) withdrew from a power sharing agreement last year over the protocol, leaving the region without a functioning executive since February last year.

The problem has ramifications beyond the E.U and the U.K. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had told U.S. President Joe Biden in November that a deal would be reached on the NI protocol, by April 10, the 25th anniversary of the Northern Ireland peace treaty, the Good Friday Agreement.

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS
ELECTRONICS CITY, PHASE-I, HOSUR ROAD, BENGALURU-560100.
Advt.No.C-DOT/HR/DR/001 Date: 17 January 2023

VACANCY NOTICE

C-DOT invites applications in prescribed format from eligible candidates working in Govt /PSU/Autonomous/R&D/Reputed Private Organisations for the following posts:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pay Matrix & Level	Post
1	Senior Manager (Admin & Campus)	Pay Level -13 as per 7CPC	01 (UR)
2	Manager (Purchase)	Pay Level -12 as per 7CPC	01 (UR)

Please visit C-DOT website Careers **(www.cdot.in)** for complete details of this Advertisement. Interested and eligible candidates may apply and submit their application online on or before **07 February 2023, 5 p.m.**
Sd/-
Head-HR/Legal

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
WBSETCL
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/12 KV VCB Switchgear/22-23/24 Date: 17.01.2023
The **Chief Engineer (Procurement)** invites e-Tender for procurement of SCADA compatible 12 kV VCB Switchgear Panels. Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by registering themselves on the e-tendering portal (**https://wbtenders.gov.in** or **https://etender.wb.nic.in**) and thereby downloading the bidding documents from **17.01.2023, 11:00 A.M.** and shall be submitted (online) up to **04:00 P.M., 15.02.2023**. Visit the Company's website-**www.wbsetcl.in** for details.
ICA- T1076 (3)/2023

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 09-01-2023 to 15-01-2023
Directorate of Homoeopathy
Tender ID: 2023_DH_547952_1 * MANAGING DIRECTOR * TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF DISPENSING AND DROPPER GLASS BOTTLES * Closing Date: 04-Feb-2023 * PAC: Rs11666000
Forest Department
Tender ID: 2022_FD_539574_2 * Deputy Drector * Construction , Supplying, Registration, Navigation and Main * Closing Date: 23-Jan-2023 * PAC: Rs29500000
Office of the Commissioner of Food Safety Kerala
Tender ID: 2022_FOOD_529802_2 * Commissioner of Food Safety * Purchase of Lab Equipments * Closing Date: 17-Jan-2023 * PAC: Rs19400000
Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:09-15/Jan/2023/PRD/(N)16

मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क दवा योजना
RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur – 302005, India
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064 Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-mail : edprmsc@nic.in. edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in
F.02(129)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/ DRUGS AND MEDICINES & SURGICAL DRUG ITEMS/2023/ 1042 Dated:- 09.01.2023
Notice Inviting E-Bid
e-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for following items are invited from eligible bidders as detailed below:-

S.No.	Item Name /Description	Ref.No	UBN	Estimated Value Rs. in Crore	Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	RATE CONTRACT AND EMPANELMENT OF MANUFACTURER FOR SUPPLY OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES	F.02(368)/RMSCL/ PROCUREMENT/ DRUG/NIB-01/2023/50 Dated:- 06.01.2023	MSC2223 GLOB 00105	18.00 Cr.	Upto 6.00 P.M. on 30.01.2023
2.	E-BID FOR THE EMPANELMENT OF ANALYTICAL TESTING LABORATORIES FOR THE TEST AND ANALYSIS OF SURGICAL & SUTURES/ MEDICAL DEVICES	F.02(129)/RMSCL/ LAB EMPANELMENT (S&S)/NIB-01/2023/ 1042 Dated :09.01.2023	MSC2223 SLOB 00107	80 Lakh	Upto 6.00 P.M. on 31.01.2023

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** , **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.
Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL
Raj.Samwad/C/22/13285

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX
TAMILNADU & PUDUCHERRY
121, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, CHENNAI - 600034
Email: chennai.dcit.hq.admin@incometax.gov.in Ph: 044 - 2833 8319 / Fax: 044 - 2833 8317
C.No.26(5)/Estt/Sports/2022 Dated: 30.12.2022
Cancellation Notice of Recruitment Under Sports Quota For the Year 2020-21 (2020)-Tamilnadu and Puducherry Region
With reference to the recruitment advertisement dated 04/01/2021 inviting online applications for the posts of Income Tax Inspector, Tax Assistant and Multi-Tasking Staff in Income Tax Department Tamilnadu and Puducherry region, published in various newspapers and available at the website **https://tnincometax.gov.in/sportsquota/application2021.php,** it is notified that the recruitment to the posts of Income Tax Inspector and Tax Assistant has been cancelled due to administrative reasons.
(R.KUMARAN)
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX (HQRS)(ADMN), CHENNAI.

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Chief Engineer TransGrid, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Shoranur
Turnkey EPC Contract for Survey, Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Integration of Interfaces, Testing & Commissioning **NSIP II A&B, QLP and VLSP I B Transmission Line Projects.** Handing Over & Guaranteed Seven years performance of the completed Transmission lines.
PAC:Rs.188,09,80,878/- Last Date - **15.02.2023, 11.00 AM.**
Visit **www.kseb.in**
Ref : PR/MC1/E393/2023

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Bids (RFB)
Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No. /Credit No. : 9066-IN
Grant No. :
Date : **January 17, 2023**
The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites Request for Bids from National Suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below: -

Sr. No.	Description of the goods procurement	Date of availability of Request for Bids on HPRIDCL web site	Last date&time for submission/ opening of Proposals
1.	**Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Vehicle Actuated Speed Signs (VASS) to Support Annual Enforcement Program of HP Police in Shimla District**	**January 17, 2023**	**February 7, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)**

Request for Bids (RFB) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html.
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for BidsDocument shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **February 7, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)** positively.
Director (Projects)-cum-CE,
H.P. State Roads Project,
HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar,
Shimla-171002
HP/ 0717/2022-2023

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Bids (RFB)
Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No. /Credit No. : 9066-IN
Grant No. :
Date : **January 19, 2023**
The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites Request for Bids from National Suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below: -

Sr. No.	Description of the goods procurement	Date of availability of Request for Bids on HPRIDCL web site	Last date&time for submission/ opening of Proposals
1.	**Procurement of Field Enforcement Equipment to Support Annual Enforcement Program of HP Police in Shimla and Nurpur Police Districts**	**January 19, 2023**	**February 9, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)**

Request for Bids (RFB) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html.
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for BidsDocument shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **February 9, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)**positively.
Director (Projects)-cum-CE,
H.P. State Roads Project,
HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar,
Shimla-171002
HP/ 0716/2022-2023

INBRIEF

M&M's first electric SUV priced at ₹15.99 lakh onwards

M&M said it's first electric SUV the XUV400 has been priced from ₹15.99 lakh (ex-showroom). The top variant would cost ₹18.99 lakh (ex-showroom). Bookings will open for the two variants viz. XUV400 EL, powered by a 39.4 kWh battery and XUV400 EC, powered by a 34.5 kWh battery, on January 26. Deliveries are scheduled for March. "We are confident our first electric SUV will inspire more consumers to go electric," said Veejay Nakra, president, Automotive Sector.

Maruti raises vehicle prices by about 1.1% across models

Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it has raised the prices of its vehicles across models by about 1.1 %. This is the second price increase that the carmaker is undertaking in the ongoing fiscal year, after raising prices in April 2022. In December, the company had said it would increase the prices of its vehicles to offset the impact of rising input costs and make provisions to update the model range to conform to stricter emission norms kicking in from April 2023. PTI

Siemens to supply, service freight trains in India for €3 bn

Siemens has signed a €3-billion contract to supply and service freight trains in India, the German engineering firm said. This is the biggest locomotive deal in its history. The firm will deliver 1,200 electric locomotives and provide servicing for 35 years under the agreement. "The locomotives can replace between 5 lakh to 8 lakh trucks over their lifecycle," said Siemens Mobility CEO Michael Peter. REUTERS

Wholesale inflation slides to 22-month low at 4.95%

Fuel and power only category to record acceleration in price rise in December, from 17.35% in November to 18.1%; the food category moderated from 2.2% to 0.65%, government data show

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's wholesale price inflation slipped to a 22-month low of 4.95% in December 2022 from 5.85% in November, fostering hopes of further easing in the price rise faced by consumers, as producers may slow down the pass-through of input costs at the retail level.

This is the second month in a row that wholesale inflation has been lower than retail inflation, which came in at 5.88% in November and 5.72% for December.

Wholesale inflation had hit a record high of 16.63% in May 2022 and was above the 10% mark for 18 successive months till September 2022. December's wholesale inflation rate was also aided by the base effect as it had touched a steep 14.3% a year earlier.

Fuel and power is the only category to record an acceleration in price rise from 17.35% in November to 18.1%. Food and primary articles moderated sharply from 2.2% to 0.65% and 5.5% to 2.4%, respectively.

If commodity prices do not rebound strongly, wholesale inflation could clock in at 4.5%-4.9% in January, before easing to below 2% by March, said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

Cooling prices

Dipping wholesale inflation may ease price pressures faced by consumers, as producers may slow down pass-through of costs

- This is the second month in a row that wholesale inflation has been lower than retail inflation
- Wholesale inflation had hit a record high of 16.63% in May 2022 and was above the 10% mark for 18 successive months till September
- December's wholesale rate was also aided by base effect

RIL suspends gas auction after Centre alters rules

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries and its partner BP on Monday suspended a planned auction for the sale of natural gas from their eastern offshore KG-D6 block after the government altered marketing rules to cap margins.

Under the new rules, bidders were asked to state if they were buying the gas through the auction for 'own use as end consumers or as a trader.' The former were allowed to resell any unconsumed gas, but traders were allowed to resell subject to a maximum trading margin of ₹200 per thousand cubic metres.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,093	-0.28
US Dollar	81.59	-0.30
Gold	56,701	0.83
Brent oil	84.33	----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3619.80	-101.35
Adani Ports	787.05	-7.60
Apollo Hosp	4294.65	-40.90
Asian Paints	2916.05	6.90
Axis Bank	913.15	-21.00
Bajaj Auto	3583.15	-22.15
Bajaj Finserv	1383.90	-7.25
Bajaj Finance	6010.90	33.10
Bharti Airtel	759.15	-5.15
BPCL	348.95	-1.15
Britannia Ind	4309.60	-26.50
Cipla	1059.60	-8.15
Coal India	213.75	-1.35
Divis Lab	3333.20	-18.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4326.05	5.65
Eicher Motors	3139.05	-23.00
Grasim Ind	1648.50	-6.60
HCL Tech	1093.70	15.90
HDFC	2594.80	-26.85
HDFC Bank	1585.30	-15.35
HDFC Life	604.20	-0.30
Hero MotoCorp	2758.60	30.15
Hindalco	483.05	-5.45
Hind Unilever	2597.10	-26.90
ICICI Bank	865.25	-8.20
IndusInd Bank	1239.25	4.85
Infosys	1525.50	21.85
ITC	330.20	1.45
JSW Steel	759.20	-9.30
Kotak Bank	1784.80	4.50
L&T	2137.20	-16.20
M&M	1315.60	-12.55
Maruti Suzuki	8380.10	-73.30
NestleIndia	19735.60	-48.75
NTPC	165.95	-1.85
ONGC	147.60	0.65
PowerGrid Corp	215.65	1.65
Reliance Ind	2444.10	-23.50
SBI Life	1300.90	-12.05
State Bank	603.00	2.90
Sun Pharma	1035.45	3.85
TataConsumerProduct	747.25	-5.65
Tata Motors	413.00	1.50
Tata Steel	119.95	-0.50
TCS	3334.05	-40.50
Tech Mahindra	1034.45	31.30
Titan	2405.85	-11.35
UltraTech Cement	7284.85	35.95
UPL	714.05	-4.75
Wipro	398.60	4.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.41	81.73
Euro	88.14	88.49
British Pound	99.40	99.80
Japanese Yen (100)	63.37	63.63
Chinese Yuan	12.10	12.15
Swiss Franc	88.01	88.36
Singapore Dollar	61.67	61.92
Canadian Dollar	60.82	61.06
Malaysian Ringitt	18.85	18.95
Australian Dollar	56.70	56.94

Source:Indian Bank

RBI moots 'expected loss-based' model for provisioning by banks

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

To mitigate concerns around model risk and variability that may arise, the RBI will issue guidance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday proposed a framework for adoption of an expected loss-based approach for provisioning by banks in India.

Banks would be allowed to design and implement their own models for measuring expected credit losses for the purpose of estimating loss provisions in line with the proposed principles. However, to mitigate the concerns relating to model risk and the significant variability that may arise, the RBI said in a discussion paper that it would issue broad guidance that must be considered by banks while designing credit risk models.

States' gross fiscal deficit may dip to 3.4% this year from 4.1% in FY20: RBI study

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The fiscal health of States has improved from a sharp, pandemic-induced deterioration in 2020-21 on the back of a broad-based economic recovery and high revenue collections, according to an RBI study.

The gross fiscal deficit of States is budgeted to decline from 4.1% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020-21 to 3.4% in 2022-23, the study showed.

While States' debt is expected to ease to 29.5% of GDP in 2022-23 against 31.1% in 2020-21, it is still higher than the 20% recommended by the N.K. Singh Committee for reviewing FRBM Act, in 2018, warranting prioritisation of debt consolidation.

Productive capacities

Going forward, increased allocations for sectors such as health and education can help expand productive capacities if States mainstream capital planning rather than treating them as first stops for budgetary cutbacks.

"It is worthwhile to consider creating a capex buffer fund during good times when revenue flows are strong so as to maintain expenditure flows through the economic cycle.

"To crowd in private investment, the State governments may continue to focus on creating a congenial ecosystem for the private sector to thrive."

Supreme Court to hear Google plea in ₹1,337-crore penalty case on January 18

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on January 18 a plea by Google in connection with a ₹1,337-crore penalty imposed on it by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for alleged anti-competitive practices in relation to Android mobile devices.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said it would hear the case in detail on Wednesday.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Google, submitted that the "extraordinary directions" of the CCI which are under challenge have to be complied with by January 19. He said there was no delay whatsoever on the part of the company to challenge the CCI order and vehemently denied the Bench's oral observation that a "contrived emergency" to hear the case was being made out.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) had refused to provide any interim relief to the U.S. tech giant. Instead, the tribunal had posted the case in April, virtually rendering Google's appeal infructuous, Mr. Singhvi submitted.

"There is no finding of abuse of dominance," he argued.

Hyundai Motor India to 'increase output as chip supply improves'

Press Trust of India
GREATER NOIDA

Hyundai Motor India will increase its production capacity to 8.2 lakh units annually from June this year as it looks to reduce backlog orders with improvement in semiconductor supply issues, according to top company officials.

The company, which is among the worst-hit automobile manufacturers in terms of chip shortage, currently has a backlog order of about 1.15 lakh units, with a majority of them for its popular SUVs – Creta and Venue.

"We see the semiconductor situation getting better this year. So, we are raising production to meet customer demand," Hyundai Motor India Ltd. MD and CEO Unsoo Kim told PTI here on the sidelines of the Auto Expo 2023.

Federal Bank Q3 net profit rises 54% to ₹804 crore

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Private lender Federal Bank on Monday reported a 54% jump in its December quarter net profit to ₹804 crore compared to the year-ago period.

The private sector lender's net interest income rose 27% to ₹1,957 crore, helped by a 19.1% growth in advances and a 0.22% expansion in the net interest margin to 3.49%.

The gross non-performing assets ratio declined to 2.43% from 3.06% in the year-earlier period.

Disruption to supply chains is top business risk: Capgemini study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Global supply chain bottlenecks and trade or logistical disruptions would be the top risks to business growth in the next 12-18 months, Capgemini has found in a survey conducted among Indian and global business leaders.

Disruption in supply chains is seen as the top risk to business growth for 89% of firms (87% in India), as per the study. About 67% of business leaders said rising prices of raw materials were a growth impediment (66% in India), while 64% cited an energy crisis (57%), and 55% lower consumer demand (66%) as risks. Capgemini Research Institute surveyed 2,000 respondents from firms with more than $1 billion in annual revenue, in 15 nations.

Sport

Viacom 18 wins media rights for the first five editions of Women's IPL set to begin in March

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Viacom 18 has been awarded the media rights for ₹951 crore for the first five editions of the Women's Indian Premier League (WIPL), set to start in March. The media rights bids were opened at a hotel here on Monday in the presence of all the bidders.

Contrary to the e-auction adopted for the Indian Premier League media rights sale last year, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had adopted the conventional closed-bid process. Viacom 18's bid is understood to have been almost 10 times more than the ₹98 crore bid by Disney-Star, the only other broadcaster that submitted the document.

₹951 crore will mean that the average value per game has been deemed at ₹7.09 crore, slightly higher than the ₹5 crore expected value as revealed to *The Hindu* by BCCI insiders ahead of the bidding. The WIPL is set to feature 22 games in a five-team format for the first three years. Should the BCCI add a sixth team, the next two editions – in 2026 and 2027 – will see 34 games being played.

Reiterating the women's IPL as part of the BCCI's "commitment" to the women's game, secretary Jay Shah said the media rights sale amount indicates a step in the right direction.

Jay Shah.
FILE PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

"Today we have taken one big leap. The broadcasters play a key role in taking the game to a wider audience and their active interest in the league is a clear indication that the WIPL is headed in the right direction," Shah wrote in a statement. "The per-match valuation of ₹7.09 crore is something that has never previously been registered for a women's game."

> The broadcasters play a key role in taking the game to a wider audience
>
> **JAY SHAH**
> BCCI secretary

Should the BCCI follow the same central revenue model that was adopted for the first 10 years of the IPL, the team owners are guaranteed ₹30 crore each from the central revenue pool.

The owners of the five franchises will be revealed on January 25 after due diligence of the winning bidders. It is understood that almost all the existing 10 IPL franchise owners, along with half a dozen corporate giants, have submitted bids for owning a WIPL franchise.

Once the franchises are awarded, the focus will shift to the player auction, likely to be held in early February. The WIPL's inaugural edition is likely to be played in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from March 6 to 26.

High Command obliges in feature event

HYDERABAD: Col. S.B. Nair's High Command (Akshay Kumar up) won the Deccan Bookmakers Association Darley Arabian Million, the feature event of Monday's (Jan. 16) races. The winner is trained by L.V.R. Deshmukh. Akshay and Deshmukh stole the limelight by winning four races on the day.

1. ROCK HEAVEN PLATE (DIV. II): CASH REGISTER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Sucker Punch (B. Nikhil) 2, City Cruise (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Queen Blossom (Md. Ismail) 4. Not run: Lightning Fairy. 2-1/2, 1 and Nk. 1m, 42.44s. ₹39 (w), 13, 18 and 11 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 41, SHW: 20 and 39, FP: 222, Q: 127, Tanala: 591. Favourite: Cash Register. Owner: Mr. Sairam Bhaskar Mocherla & Mr. Soma Raju Adipudi. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. RED ROSE PLATE: ANAB E SHAHI (Akshay Kumar) 1, Splendour On Grass (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Brilliant Star (Abhay Singh) 3 and Pocket Rocket (Surya Prakash) 4. 4-1/2, Nk and 2. 1m, 13.14s. ₹27 (w), 13, 11 and 13 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 40, SHW: 13 and 12, FP: 61, Q: 25, Tanala: 175. Favourite: Splendour On Grass. Owners: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Mr. Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah, Mr. Syed Ainuddin Arif, Mr. Vishal Gupta & Mrs. Sudha Gupta. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

NOTE: Dolly Bird refused to gallop soon after the start and dislodged her rider Aneel, who escaped unhurt.

3. ROCK HEAVEN PLATE (DIV. I): AMALFITANA (Kuldeep S) 1, Team Player (Afroz Khan) 2, Hero Of The East (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Sweet Whisper (Gaurav Singh) 4. 1/2, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m, 41.40s. ₹102 (w), 22, 12 and 13 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 49, SHW: 50 and 15, FP: 322, Q: 125, Tanala: 686. Favourite: Hero Of The East. Owners: Mr. Gaurav Sethi, Mr. Abhimanyu J. Thackersey & Mr. Berjis Minoo Desai. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

NOTE: Originally Team Player had won and Amalfitana had finished second. An objection was raised by the trainer of Amalfitana against the rider of Team Player for causing interference to his ward in the last 100m. The Stewards after watching the replay decided to revise the order as above.

4. VEGAVATHI CUP: FRANCIS BACON (Kuldeep S) 1, Alabama (Kiran Naidu) 2, Princess Daka (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Wallop And Gallop (B. Nikhil) 4. 3-1/2, 1/2 and Shd. 2m, 09.09s. ₹43 (w), 10, 13 and 14 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 47, SHW: 22 and 10, FP: 102, Q: 50, Tanala: 246. Favourite: Alabama. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mr. M. Satyanarayana. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

5. GAJASIMHA RAO MEMORIAL CUP: SOLOIST (Akshay Kumar) 1, Shazam (D.S. Deora) 2, Mark My Day (Aneel) 3 and Stunning Force (Rafique Sk.) 4. Nose, 1-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 26.19s. ₹15 (w), 10, 16 and 20 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 63, SHW: 14 and 31, FP: 54, Q: 43, Tanala: 329. Favourite: Soloist. Owners: Mr. Gurpal Singh, Mr. N.P. Sharma & Alluri Ajay Kumar. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. DECCAN BOOKMAKERS ASSOCIATION DARLEY ARABIAN MILLION (Gr. 3): **HIGH COMMAND** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Siddarth (Ashad Asbar) 2, Encore (Afroz Khan) 3 and N R I Skylab (Hindu Singh) 4. 3, 3-1/2 and 3. 1m, 11.81s. ₹11 (w), 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 14, THP: 27, SHW: 10 and 11, FP: 15, Q: 13. Favourite: High Command. Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

7. RED SATIN PLATE: CHINA TOWN (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Black Opal (Santosh Raj) 2, Wot's Up Jay (Md. Ismail) 3 and My Grandeur (B. Nikhil) 4. 2, 2-3/4 and 6-3/4. 1m, 41.40s. ₹18 (w), 10, 13 and 14 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 38, SHW: 10 and 23, FP: 43, Q: 28, Tanala: 104. Favourite: China Town. Owner: Mr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: Anant Vatsalya.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹1,747 (179 tkts.) & 30%: 299 (447 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 3,335 (17 tkts.), (ii) 228 (468 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 1,664 (31 tkts.), (ii) 40 (1,959 tkts.).

REIGNING SUPREME

Axelsen and Yamaguchi claim honours in Malaysia Open

World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark beat Japan's Kodai Naraoka 21-6, 21-15 to claim the men's singles crown in the Malaysia Open on Sunday. The women's event was won by Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, who beat South Korea's An Se-young 12-21, 21-19, 21-11 in the summit clash.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Grateful for support, good wishes, says Pant as he recovers

Rishabh Pant on Monday thanked all his fans and well-wishers for their support and good wishes as he continues to receive treatment after meeting with a car accident last year. Pant said his surgery was a success and his "road to recovery" has begun. He also thanked the BCCI and government authorities for their "incredible support".

STALEMATE

FC Goa held to a 2-2 draw by NorthEast United FC

FC Goa dropped points after opening the scoring in the Indian Super League (ISL) for the first time this season as it was held to a 2-2 draw by NorthEast United FC in Guwahati on Sunday.
The result: FC Goa 2 (Edu Bedia 31, Iker Guarrotxena 65-pen) drew with NEUFC 2 (Wilmar Jordan 45+3-pen, 71-pen).

A CLASSIC TRIUMPH

Barcelona drubs Real Madrid to win Spanish Super Cup

Barcelona convincingly beat Real Madrid 3-1 in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to win the Spanish Super Cup, its first trophy since coach Xavi Hernandez took over. Teenager Gavi scored one and set up goals for Robert Lewandowski and Pedri Gonzalez while Karim Benzema netted a late consolation for Real.

India plays out goalless draw with England in high-intensity encounter

The hosts played like amateurs, making basic trapping errors and watching the ball instead of rushing to meet it; Hardik Singh was its best player — controlling the midfield, assisting the attack, falling back to defend and running circles around the opposition

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

India versus England in hockey has always been close and the precedent was followed on Sunday. India's second Pool D match against England was as close as it could be in a goalless encounter at the Birsa Munda International Stadium, leaving England on top of the group. India now has to necessarily beat Wales by a handful of goals to have any chance of avoiding the crossover mess and make the quarterfinals.

But for a game in which no goals were scored, the proceedings on field had more drama than most. It was intense from the word go, end-to-end action for a few minutes before England took charge. For almost the entire first half, it didn't look like India's game.

Goalmouth melee: After a poor first-half, the Indians managed a few forays in the English scoring circle but couldn't find the breakthrough. BISWARANJAN ROUT

England did what it had promised – push hard, go for the attack and keep the foot on the pedal. It earned five penalty corners in two minutes and only some desperate running by Amit Rohidas and Manpreet Singh denied it.

The hosts played like amateurs, making basic trapping errors and watching the ball instead of rushing to meet it. The PCs conceded were off silly mistakes and the entire forward line seemed to have gone to sleep. It failed to create enough PCs, messed the few chances it got and appeared to be clueless when the ball did enter the England circle despite crowding in.

Coach Graham Reid was visibly upset on the sidelines. One would like to know what he said in the break; India appeared to have renewed purpose and increased sharpness in its attempts to break the deadlock. There were more circle entries, more shots on target and several scoring chances thwarted only the exceptional Oliver Payne in the goal, earning a deserved player of the match award.

For India, the star was undoubtedly Hardik Singh before he hobbled off with what looked like a strained hamstring. He was everywhere – controlling the midfield, assisting the attack, falling back to defend and running circles around the opposition.

When Jarmanpreet Singh earned a penalty seconds later and England earned a PC with 19 seconds left, it looked like India's worst nightmare would come true. That didn't happen, though, as India lived to fight another day.

The results:
Pool D: India 0 drew with England 0; Spain 5 (Marc Reyne 17, 39, Alvaro Iglesias 23, Marc Miralles 33, 57) bt Wales 1 (James Carson 53).

Hardik out of Wales clash, team to wait on replacement call

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Hardik. PTI

The hamstring injury Hardik Singh suffered during the World Cup match against England has all but ruled the youngster out of India's last league match against Wales.

India plays Wales only on Thursday in Bhubaneswar and even though there is time, the team management has decided against taking any chances and aggravating the injury. The 24-year-old was the most impressive player for India in the drawn game and his injury is a blow to the host.

While no decision has been taken yet on his continuing with the side for the rest of the tournament, sources said it was unlikely India would ask for a replacement going forward. If he is replaced, he will not be able to take any further part in the competition and the team management is waiting to assess the extent of seriousness of his injury before taking a final call.

Team staff are hopeful the long gap between the games will help him recover in time for the knockout games. India will only play on the 25th after the Wales game if it finishes on top of Pool D or the 22nd if it has to play the crossovers, giving him a week to recover.

Coach Graham Reid had sounded concerned about the injury but later insisted during the press conference that it did not appear as bad as was initially suspected. Hardik had hobbled out with just over three minutes left in the game on Sunday and was unable to stand even after the match.

Today's matches
Korea v Japan, 5 p.m.
Germany v Belgium, 7 p.m.

Australia shares points with Argentina

Take that! Hayward opens the account for Australia from a penalty corner. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

World No.1 Australia held its nerve to manage a 3-3 draw against 2016 Olympic champion Argentina in a thrilling Pool-A contest at the Kalinga Stadium.

Argentina gave the three-time champion a run for its money by levelling the scores twice and taking the lead. But Australia stayed calm to score through Blake Govers in the 58th minute to share the honours.

Jeremy Hayward scored in the 10th minute to put Australia ahead. Argentina, which held its structures and smartly explored open spaces, drew parity as Tomas Domene shot low into the left corner to convert a penalty corner.

Daniel Beale pounced on a rebound to hit home Australia's second goal. But the Los Leones equalised through Maico Casella's deflection from a Lucas Toscani's shot, following a high ball, from the edge of the circle early in the penultimate period.

Another fine ball empowered Martin Ferreiro outside the circle. He went in and beat goalie Andrew Charter to put Argentina ahead in the final quarter. For the first time, Argentina scored thrice against Australia in the World Cup.

Australia took off Charter with four minutes left.

Still, it required a special effort from Govers, who returned from an injury, to get the spectacular equaliser. He intercepted a scoop on the left in one-on-one situation, took it inside the 'D' and hit hard into the post with a reverse stick on the goalkeeper's right.

France rode on captain Victor Charlet's brace to record a 2-1 win over South Africa and stay afloat.

The results: Pool-A: France 2 (Victor Charlet 8, 57) bt South Africa 1 (Connor Beauchamp 15+); Australia 3 (Jeremy Hayward 10, Daniel Beale 30, Blake Govers 58) drew with Argentina 3 (Tomas Domene 19, Maico Casella 33, Martin Ferreiro 49).

The Netherlands wallops New Zealand

It's a strike: The Dutch players celebrate after scoring. PTI

Aashin Prasad
ROURKELA

Netherlands took a big step towards finishing top of Pool C with a facile 4-0 win over New Zealand here at the Birsa Munda International Stadium.

New Zealand struggled against the Dutch's scintillating counter-attacking and intricate play. Its circle was penetrated 27 times and it let in 12 shots on goal. The Dutch capitalised on any defensive lapses as the scoring began in the second minute through skipper Thierry Brinkman.

Tjep Hoedemakers intercepted a crossfield pass inside the opposition half and squared it to Brinkman, who set himself up to drive home the finish.

New Zealand coach Greg Nicol made a surprising tactic in the 10th minute when he removed the goalkeeper for an extra outfielder which backfired when Brinkman was played through on goal to score into an empty net.

Dixon was restored in goal in the second quarter as New Zealand struggled against Netherlands' quick transitions. Koen Bijen, who set up Brinkman's second, was unmarked at the edge of the circle, where he guided a fierce hit from Jonas de Geus past Dixon for the third goal.

With six minutes left, the fourth goal was the pick of the lot. Defender Reyenga surged upfield from the right through the middle, slaloming past five defenders to find Thijs van Dam inside the circle, who found Hoedemakers to sweep the ball into the net.

Malaysia pulled off a thrilling comeback 3-2 win over Chile to revive the Asian side's hopes of progression into the knockouts.

The results: Pool-C: Netherlands 4 (Thierry Brinkman 2, 12, Koen Bijen 19, Tjep Hoedemakers 54) bt New Zealand 0; Malaysia 3 (Razie Rahim, Ashran Hamsani, Sumantri Norsyafiq) bt Chile 2 (Juan Amoroso, Martin Rodriguez).

Nadal surmounts Draper's challenge even as Kyrgios pulls out with injury

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Rafael Nadal launched his Australian Open title defence with a four-set victory over Britain's Jack Draper on Monday as home hope Nick Kyrgios quit through injury without hitting a ball.

In the women's draw, top seed Iga Swiatek survived a tough examination while Jessica Pegula and teenage prodigy Coco Gauff were both emphatic winners on the first day of action.

Spanish great Nadal, 36, had been in poor form by his sky-high standards, losing six of his last seven matches stretching back to defeat in the last 16 at the U.S. Open.

In fast-rising Draper, 21, the 22-time Grand Slam champion faced a stern test to start his campaign at a sweltering Melbourne Park.

The top seed recovered from a second-set wobble – and a bizarre incident when a ball boy accidentally took his racquet – to defeat the 38th-ranked Briton 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 at Rod Laver Arena.

Nadal was on court when Australia's talented but temperamental Kyrgios called a hastily arranged press conference and announced that he was out of the tournament with a knee injury.

"I'm devastated, obviously," said the Wimbledon finalist, who was considered an outside bet to win a maiden Grand Slam crown.

Other winners on Monday included third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas and sixth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, who saw off dogged Vasek Pospisil in an all-Canadian clash.

In the women's draw, hot favourite Swiatek was far from her fluent best against Jule Niemeier but got the job done, 6-4, 7-5.

In-form Pegula blitzed 161st-ranked Romanian Jaqueline Cristian 6-0, 6-1. Fellow American Gauff was equally explosive in racing into the second round with a 6-1, 6-4 thumping of Czech Katerina Siniakova.

Sixth seed Maria Sakkari also won and Victoria Azarenka defeated Sofia Kenin in a battle of two former champions.

Seeds in action
Men: 2-Ruud, 4-Djokovic 5-Rublev, 8-Fritz, 9-Rune, 12-Zverev, 13-Berrettini, 14-Carreno, 22-de Minaur, 25-Evans, 23-Schwartzman, 24-Bautista Agut, 26-Kecmanovic, 27-Dimitrov, 30-Fokina.
Women: 2-Jabeur, 4-Garcia, 5-Sabalenka, 8-Kasatkina, 9-Kudermetova, 12-Bencic, 14-Maia, 16-Kontaveit, 19-Alexandrova, 21-Trevisan, 23-Zhang, 26-Mertens, 27-Begu, 30-Pliskova, 31-Kanepi.

Stern test: Defending champion Nadal had to dig deep to get past Draper. GETTY IMAGES

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: 1-Nadal (Esp) bt Draper (GBr) 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1; 31-Nishioka (Jpn) bt Mikael Ymer (Swe) 6-4, 6-2, 7-5; 18-Khachanov (Rus) bt Miralles (Esp) 7-6(3), 6-2, 6-0; 16-Tiafoe (USA) bt Altmaier (Ger) 6-3, 6-3, 6-7(5), 7-6(6); 10-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Martinez (Esp) 7-6(1), 6-2, 6-2; 20-Shapovalov (Can) bt Lajovic (Srb) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; 29-Korda (USA) bt Garin (Chi) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; 7-Medvedev bt Giron (USA) 6-0, 6-1, 6-2; 3-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Halys (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(6); 32-van de Zandschulp (Ned) bt Ivashka (Blr) 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; Harris (RSA) bt 17-Musetti (Ita) 6-4, 6-1, 6-7(0), 2-6, 7-6(4); 15-Sinner (Ita) bt Kyle Edmund (GBr) 6-4, 6-0, 6-2; 11-Norrie (GBr) bt van Assche (Fra) 7-6(3), 6-0, 6-3; Lehecka (Cze) bt 21-Coric (Cro) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; 28-Cerundolo (Arg) bt Pella (Arg) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3; Molcan (Svk) bt Wawrinka (Sui) 6-7(3), 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(2), 6-4; 6-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Pospisil (Can) 1-6, 7-6(4), 7-6(3), 6-3.

Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Niemeier (Ger) 6-4, 7-5; 22-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Cocciaretto (Ita) 7-5, 6-3; 13-Collins (USA) bt Kalinskaya (Rus) 7-5, 5-7, 6-4; 17-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Yastremska (Ukr) 6-4, 6-2; 29-Zheng (Chn) bt Galfi (Hun) 6-0, 6-2; Raducanu (GBr) bt Korpatsch (Ger) 6-3, 6-2; 7-Gauff (USA) bt Siniakova (Cze) 6-1, 6-4; 3-Pegula (USA) bt Jaqueline Cristian (Rom) 6-0, 6-1; Sasnovich (Blr) bt Fruhvirtova (Cze) 7-5, 6-2; Kostyuk (Ukr) bt 28-Anisimova (USA) 6-3, 6-4; 20-Krejcikova (Cze) bt Bejlek (Cze) 6-3, 6-1; 15-Kvitova (Cze) bt van Uytvanck (Bel) 7-6(3), 6-2; 10-Keys (USA) bt Anna Blinkova (Rus) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; 24-Azarenka (Blr) bt Kenin (USA) 6-4, 7-6(3); 32-Teichmann (Sui) bt Dart (GBr) 7-5, 6-1; 6-Sakkari (Gre) bt Yuan (Chn) 6-1, 6-4.

INBRIEF

Shafali, Shweta's blitzkrieg helps India crush UAE

Skipper Shafali Verma, *in pic*, cracked a blistering 78 while opener Shweta Sehrawat sparkled with an unbeaten 74 as India outplayed UAE by 122 runs in the inaugural Women's U-19 T20 World Cup in Benoni, on Monday. Richa Ghosh smacked a 29-ball 49 to help India post an imposing 219 for three. With the win, India has consolidated the top spot in Group D.

The scores:
India 219/3 in 20 overs (Shweta 74 n.o., Shafali 78, Richa 49) bt UAE 97/5 in 20 overs (Mahika Gaur 26). **PoM:** Shafali.

Ervine and Burl propel Zimbabwe to series win

A whirlwind unbeaten 30 by Ryan Burl lifted Zimbabwe to a 2-1 T20I series victory over Ireland in Harare on Sunday.

The scores:
Ireland 141/9 in 20 overs (Harry Tector 47) lost to Zimbabwe 144/6 in 19 overs (Craig Erwine 54, Ryan Burl 30 n.o.).
Toss: Zimbabwe. *(Zimbabwe won by four wickets to clinch three-match T20I series 2-1).*

LIVE TELECAST

Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 & 4.30 p.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 & 7 p.m.

India rampages past abject Sri Lanka

Gill and Kohli notch up centuries as the hosts pull off a mammoth victory, the biggest in terms of runs in ODI history, and whitewash the islanders 3-0; Siraj was superb as he moved the new ball around to break the back of the Sri Lankan batting to finish with four wickets

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

When Shubman Gill pushed Nuwanidu Fernando gently for a single towards mid-on to bring up his second ODI hundred, Virat Kohli was at the non-striking end. It was a magnificent century by the 23-year-old opener who looks to be the heir apparent of the great Indian batting tradition.

But, Gill (116, 97b, 14x4, x6) was soon overshadowed by the king himself. Kohli scored a brilliant unbeaten 166 off just 110 balls (13x4, 8x6) to help India record the biggest victory (by runs) in ODI history and whitewash Sri Lanka 3-0.

India posted a mammoth 390 for five, and then dismissed the visitors for just 73 at the Greenfield Stadium on Sunday. India's margin of victory – 317 runs – broke the record set in 2008 by New Zealand, which defeated Ireland by 290 runs at Aberdeen.

If the first half often resembled a T20I, the second was more like a Test match, with Mohammed Siraj bowling to four slips and a gully.

Siraj was superb, as he moved the new ball around beautifully to break the back of the Sri Lankan batting. He had Avishka Fernando caught at slip in his first over and Kusal Mendis caught behind in the next.

At one stage, his figures read 5-0-17-4. It was his first four-wicket haul in ODIs.

Earlier, it was a masterclass in ODI batting by Kohli. It was long ago that he went through a three-year drought of international hundreds, but he is now scoring them almost on demand. It was his third hundred in the last four ODIs. His fifty came off 48 balls. Off the next 62, he smashed 116.

The eight sixes – including one with an M.S. Dhoni like helicopter shot – is the highest in his ODI innings.

Kohli added 131 for the second wicket with Gill and 108 with Shreyas Iyer (38, 32b, 2x4, 1x6) for the third.

Captain Rohit Sharma (42, 49b, 2x4, 3x6) and Gill had given India a splendid start, adding 95. The finish would be provided by Siraj.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Rohit Sharma c Avishka b Karunaratne 42 (*49b, 2x4, 3x6*), Shubman Gill b Rajitha 116 (*97b, 14x4, 2x6*), Virat Kohli (not out) 166 (*110b, 13x4, 8x6*), Shreyas Iyer c sub (Dhananjaya) b Kumara 38 (*32b, 2x4, 1x6*), K.L. Rahul c Wellalage b Kumara 7 (*6b, 1x4*), Suryakumar Yadav c Avishka b Rajitha 4 (*4b*), Axar Patel (not out) 2 (*2b*); Extras (lb-10, w-5): 15; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 390.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-95 (Rohit, 15.2 overs), 2-226 (Gill, 33.4), 3-334 (Shreyas, 45.3), 4-364 (Rahul, 47.5), 5-370 (Suryakumar, 48.4).

SRI LANKA BOWLING
Rajitha 10-1-81-2, Kumara 10-1-87-2, Hasaranga 10-0-54-0, Vandersay 7-0-59-0, Karunaratne 8-0-58-1, Shanaka 3-0-19-0, Nuwanidu 2-0-22-0.

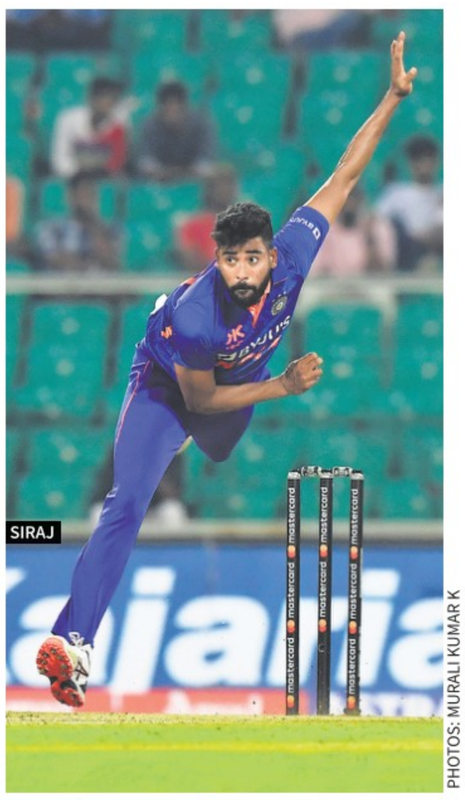
SRI LANKA
Avishka Fernando c Gill b Siraj 1 (*4b*), Nuwanidu Fernando b Siraj 19 (*27b, 4x4*), Kusal Mendis c Rahul b Siraj 4 (*7b, 1x4*), Charith Asalanka c Axar b Shami 1 (*4b*), Dasun Shanaka b Kuldeep 11 (*26b, 2x4*), Wanindu Hasaranga b Siraj 1 (*7b*), Chamika Karunaratne run out 1 (*6b*), Dunith Wellalage c Suryakumar b Shami 3 (*13b*), Kasun Rajitha (not out) 13 (*19b, 2x4*), Lahiru Kumara b Kuldeep 9 (*19b, 2x4*), Ashen Bandara (absent hurt); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-7): 10; Total (in 22 overs): 73.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Avishka, 1.5), 2-22 (Mendis, 3.6), 3-31 (Asalanka, 6.3), 4-35 (Nuwanidu, 7.3), 5-37 (Hasaranga, 9.3), 6-39 (Karunaratne, 11.4), 7-50 (Shanaka, 14.6), 8-51 (Wellalage, 15.4), 9-73 (Kumara, 21.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Shami 6-2-20-2, Siraj 10-1-32-4, Kuldeep 5-1-16-2, Shreyas 1-0-2-0.
Toss: India; **PoM:** Kohli; **PoS:** Kohli.
India won by 317 runs to sweep series 3-0.

India-Sri Lanka ODI series in numbers

KOHLI


SIRAJ

PHOTOS: MURALI KUMAR K

Batting	M	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	100s/50s
Kohli	3	**283**	166*	141.50	137.37	2/0
Gill	3	**207**	116	69.00	122.48	1/1
Rohit	3	**142**	83	47.33	103.64	0/1
Shanaka	3	**121**	108*	60.50	102.54	1/0

Bowling	M	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	4W
Siraj	3	**9**	4/32	10.22	4.05	1
Rajitha	3	**6**	3/88	35.83	7.41	0
Kuldeep	2	**5**	3/51	13.40	4.46	0
Umran	2	**5**	3/57	21.00	7.00	0

Siraj attributes his success to bowling with a wobble seam

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Mohammed Siraj can be a beast when there is a hint of assistance for him on or off the wicket. The ball darted around in the evening at the Sports Hub on Sunday and Siraj made it talk and asked intimidating questions to Sri Lankans batters and they didn't have any answers.

After running through the Sri Lankan top order with his career best performance (4/32) Siraj attributed his success to bowling with a wobble seam and maintaining the line.

"It is always difficult for batters in all formats if you bowl the right line. I started bowling with a wobble seam in the nets when I wanted to develop the inswinger.

"The wobble seam keeps the batters guessing where the ball will go. To be honest, I am also not sure in which direction the ball will move with the wobble seam," he said.

Siraj said he was satisfied with the way he bowled in the series and his aim was to take wickets with the new ball.

He added that he was looking forward to playing his first international match in Hyderabad against New Zealand.

"It will be a special occasion to play in front of my friends and family. Although I have played IPL in Hyderabad before, it will be my first international match there and I am looking forward to it," he said.

Siraj's effort with the new ball also drew praise from Sri Lankan coach Chris Silverwood, who was disappointed with how his side capitulated against India.

Dominant Arsenal too good for Tottenham

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal moved eight points clear at the top of the Premier League with a 2-0 win over Tottenham in the north London derby as Chelsea eased the pressure on manager Graham Potter by beating Crystal Palace 1-0 on Sunday.

Newcastle struck late to beat Fulham 1-0 to reclaim third place and keep alive its title aspirations.

But Arsenal will take some stopping if it is to be denied a first league title since Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles" in 2003/04 after a first league win away to Tottenham in nine years.

A dominant first-half display from the visitors did the damage as Hugo Lloris palmed Bukayo Saka's cross into his own net before Martin Odegaard's long-range effort found the bottom corner.

Kai Havertz scored the winner for Chelsea with a towering second-half header.In Serie A, Roma, Atalanta and Lazio all won on Sunday to move within three points of Inter Milan and Juventus, which occupy the final Champions League qualifying positions.

The results:
Premier League: Chelsea 1 (Havertz 64) bt Crystal Palace 0; Newcastle 1 (Isak 89) bt Fulham 0; Tottenham 0 lost to Arsenal 2 (Lloris 14-og, Odegaard 36).
Serie A: Sassuolo 0 lost to Lazio 2 (Zaccagni 45+3-pen, Anderson 90+4); Torino 0 lost to Spezia 1 (Nzola 28-pen); Udinese 1 (Beto 10) lost to Bologna 2 (Sansone 59, Posch 80); Atalanta 8 (Boga 5, Lookman 20-pen, 54, Scalvini 23, Koopmeiners 38, Hojlund 41, Ederson 61, Zortea 85) bt Salernitana 2 (Dia 10, Caviglia 56); Roma 2 (Dybala 40, 82) bt Fiorentina 0; Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 3) bt Verona 0; Lecce 2 (Hernandez 3-og, Baschirotto 23) drew with AC Milan 2 (Leao 58, Calabria 70).
La Liga: Almeria 1 (Toure 37) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Correa 18).

Kerala needs to bring its A-game against table-topper Karnataka

RANJI TROPHY

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

For the very first time this season at home, Kerala start as the underdogs when it takes on table topper Karnataka in a round six match of the Ranji Trophy cricket tournament at the KCA-St.Xavier's College ground here on Tuesday.

History and form
History and form favours Karnataka which has not lost to Kerala in a Ranji Trophy match since 2001. Karnataka batting with the presence of Mayank Agarwal, Devidutt Padikkal, Ravikumar Samarth and Manish Pandey looks formidable.

Karnataka has more variety in its bowling attack and it has two quality spinners in Krishnappa Gowtham and Shreyas Gopal to exploit the track if there is any help for the slow bowlers.

Karnataka is coming to the match with back-to-back wins at home and is high on confidence. Kerala, placed second in the group, has thrived on its home conditions on tracks which has aided spin.

Jalaj Saxena has been the standout bowler for Kerala this season. The off-spinner took a career best performance (8/36) against Services in the last match and will again play a key role against Karnataka. Against Services, Jalaj found support from his fellow spinners and they bowled well as a unit.

Basil Thampi has been woefully out of form this season and he looked very ordinary against Services. Kerala new ball bowlers were unable to exploit the favourable conditions is a worry. The batters barring Sachin Baby and Rohan Prem have been inconsistent.

Recovered from illness
Rohan Kunnummal has recovered from his illness and is likely to resume the opening duties with P. Rahul. But Rohan hasn't hit his full stride and Kerala's hasn't got any good starts this season.

Kerala batters will have to lift themselves and play positively against their superior rival.

Kerala coach Tinu Yohannan acknowledged the strength of Karnataka side and said his side will have to play to their potential to make a match out of this encounter.

"We have to be on the top of our game and not worry about the opposition. We have to do things right and seize our opportunities to put pressure on Karnataka," he said.

RANJI TROPHY SCHEDULE (ROUND SIX)

Elite: Group A: Uttarakhand vs. Baroda (Dehradun); Himachal Pradesh vs. Nagaland (Nadaun); Uttar Pradesh vs. Odisha (Meerut); Haryana vs. Bengal (Lahli).
Group B: Saurashtra vs. Andhra (Rajkot); Tamil Nadu vs. Assam (Chennai); Delhi vs. Mumbai (New Delhi); Maharashtra vs. Hyderabad (Pune).
Group C: Services vs. Goa (New Delhi); Pondicherry vs. Jharkhand (Puducherry); Kerala vs. Karnataka (Thiruvananthapuram); Rajasthan vs. Chhattisgarh (Jodhpur).
Group D: Punjab vs. Madhya Pradesh (Mohali); Jammu & Kashmir vs. Tripura (Jammu); Chandigarh vs. Railways (Chandigarh); Vidarbha vs. Gujarat (Nagpur).
Plate: Semifinals: Meghalaya vs. Bihar (Shillong); Sikkim vs. Manipur (Surat). **Fifth place play-off:** Mizoram vs. Arunachal Pradesh (Ahmedabad).

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Sanket scores a brace as South United FC swamps Tilak Memorial
Sanket Anil Solokhe scored a brace as South United FC beat Tilak Memorial FC 4-1 in the BDFA A-division league on Monday.
The results:
South United 4 (Sanket Anil Solokhe 11, 74, Md. Altab Hussain 27, Vignesh Srinivas 38) bt Tilak Memorial 1 (Anil Shanker 25); RWF 2 (D. Dinesh 23, Prakash Chander 71) bt DYES 0.

Chennai Heats claims the Indian National Basketball League title
Aravind Kumar top-scored with 28 points as Chennai Heats defeated Bangalore Kings 91-74 to win the Indian National Basketball League title, at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Sunday.
The results (final):
Chennai Heats 91 (Aravind Kumar 28) bt Bangalore Kings 74 (Abhishek Gowda 33, B.M. Manoj 12, Prathynshu Tomar 12).
Third place match: Chandigarh Warriors 85 (G. Kanwar 18, Amrendra 12, Sahil 12) bt Kochi Tigers 69 (K. Vaishak 24).
Fifth place match: Mumbai Titans 93 (Mandeep Singh 37, Syyed Mohiden 26, Vivek 19) bt Delhi Dribblers 72 (Rajeev Kumar 17, Gaurav Chandel 12).

Mithun sizzles for Karnataka Forest Sports Board Society
Mithun Bijwad scored twice to lead Karnataka Forest Sports Board Society to a 3-1 win over Hindustan Friends HC in the KSHA A-division league on Monday.
The results:
Karnataka Forest Sports Board Society 3 (Mithun Bijwad 32, 48, D.S. Darshan 40) bt Hindustan Friends 1 (R. Vignesh 43).

A world-class field promises high-quality action

INDIA OPEN

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

For once, it is a truly world-class field. Clearly stronger than what one gets to witness in the Olympic Games.

The country's flagship badminton event - the $900,000 India Open – is back with stars like never before at the K.D. Jadhav Stadium here.

When the world's top 25 ranked players are part of the 32-man field in singles and 16 of the top-17 players – with the exception of Chinese Taipei's World No. 3 Tai Tzu Ying – are around in the women's field, one can expect nothing but the best when the action begins on Tuesday.

Lakshya Sen.
SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Needless to say, a number of World and Olympic champions and medallists are around in all five sections. In this elite mix, to expect World No. 10 Lakshya Sen to defend his title is rather unfair.

Seeded seventh, Lakshya runs into teammate World No. 8 H.S. Prannoy in the campaign-opener for the second time in a week.

K. Srikanth, drawn to play World and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in the first round on Wednesday, could again find it tough to advance against a man fresh from winning the Malaysia Open on Sunday.

Confident
Among the ladies, Saina Nehwal's comeback will continue while P.V. Sindhu, back from the stress fracture on her left knee, is eager to regain the title.

In the men's doubles section, where the fifth-ranked Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy have a chance to play above their seeding, 15 of the top-16 pairs in the world are in the fray.

Classy field
In the women's doubles and mixed doubles, in such a classy field, Indians will have to punch way about their weight to be in the quarterfinals.

Over all, this week could provide a pointer to where Indian badminton stands against the best in the game.

Sedate starts for Arjun and Praggnanandhaa

TATA STEEL CHESS

Sports Bureau

Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa made sedate starts with successive draws but D. Gukesh was looking to open his account after two rounds of the Masters section of the prestigious Tata Steel chess tournament at Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands, on Tuesday.

In the Challengers group, B. Adhiban drew the first two rounds while R. Vaishali suffered a loss in the second round after opening her account with a draw.

The results: Masters (second round): Wesley So (USA, 1) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (1); Levon Aronian (USA, 1) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa (1).
Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) bt D. Gukesh (0).
Vincent Keymer (Ger, 0.5) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 1.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1).
Ding Liren (Chn, 1.5) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 1); Jorden van Foreest (1) drew with Richard Rapport (Rom).

Challengers: (second round):
R. Vaishali lost to Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 1.5); B. Adhiban (1) drew with Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 1); P. Luis Supi (Bra, 1) drew with Max Warmerdam (Ned, 1.5).
Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 1) drew with Abhimanyu Mishra (USA, 1.5).
Jergus Pechac (Slo, 0) lost to M. Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 1.5).
Velimir Ivic (Ser, 1) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 1).
Eline Roebers (Ned, 1) bt Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 0.5).